

# ATHLETIC

Vol. XIV, No. 10



Athletes Who Were Making  
Track History a Year Ago  
Vaulters and Jumpers of 1933  
State Championship Results

# JOURNAL



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for JUNE, 1934

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"One of the most interesting features of the magazine!" That is the comment of a college coach after reading the discussions of state high school tournaments that appeared in the May issue of The Athletic Journal. Ten states were covered last month. Basketball coaches will be glad to learn that the coaches of twenty-two additional state champions are writing about their teams and their tournaments in the current issue. To the student of basketball, wherever he may be coaching, these thirty-two articles, each written by a coach proficient enough to guide a team to a state title, present an interesting picture of basketball as it is played throughout the nation. To the coach who is searching for ideas and devices

which he may adapt to his own squad, these thirty-two discussions constitute an invaluable document.

That the majority of coaches maintain a professional attitude toward their calling is indicated by the large number of long term subscriptions received recently. Many coaches have taken advantage of the two year rate, and a surprisingly large number have subscribed for four years. Only a few days ago, a four year subscription was received from a greatly admired, nationally known coach who a year or two ago completed his allotted three score years and ten. The long term subscriptions indicate that coaches are thinking ahead, that they are planning beyond the game of tomorrow.



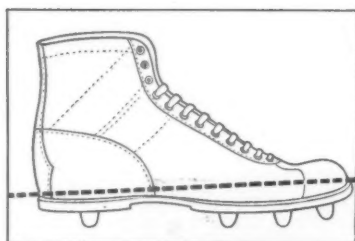
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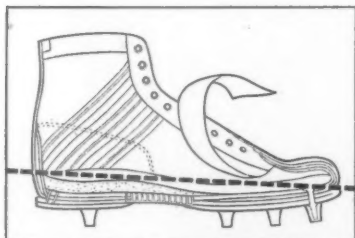
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*Duane Purvis, Purdue University*

# How the 1933 N.C.A.A. Champion Hurls the Javelin

*By Orval Martin*

Track Coach, Purdue University

**D**UANE PURVIS, Purdue's National Collegiate javelin throwing champion, might be called the ideal athlete. He has both the ability and the temperament that make a great competitor. Above all, he loves to play the game, and the same elements that made him an All-American in football have been responsible for his rise in track.

From the coaches' viewpoint, Purvis is exceptionally easy to work with. He is always willing to learn from others, and always strives to excel. Above all, he never gets excited or nervous in competition whether it be on the football field or track.

That he is a real competitor was shown last year in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Meet. In the preliminaries on Friday, his best throw was 192 feet, which assured him of not better than fifth place. As the finals started Saturday night, Sample of Arizona had a recorded throw of 211 feet 4½ inches, nearly 20 feet better than Purvis. Duane proved his championship mettle in the finals when he had three throws better than 208 feet, one the winning heave of 216 feet 6¼

inches, which was only one-half inch under the N.C.A.A. record.

Purvis is twenty-one years of age and has an ideal build. He weighs 196 pounds, stands 6 feet 2 inches tall, and has all of the necessary speed. He is a junior and still has two more years of outdoor collegiate track competition.

As far as form is concerned, Purvis uses a run of about 90 feet. He starts slowly and increases his speed so that he reaches his maximum just as he hits his take-off mark, which is about 30 feet back of the scratch line.

When he hits the take-off mark, he hops and lands on his right foot, with his arm extended back of his body. The throw itself is made off the left foot, which he extends forward in a long step when the hop is made. He throws as he reverses off the left foot, and lands on his right foot.

In starting training, he works on form and easy throws for the first three weeks of practice. After he gets his arm in shape, he takes three or four medium hard throws three or four times a week. Ordinarily, he throws only every other day and

works on form the remainder of the time. On the days that he does not throw the javelin, he works on the discus throw and runs with the sprinters.

On the day of a meet, he warms up well and then takes three or four medium throws in order to locate his step and check his marks. Before the actual competition starts, he takes one or two rather hard throws.

Purvis has shown steady development. His best official throw as a freshman was slightly better than 204 feet. Last year, as a sophomore, his best official throw was the 216 foot 6¼ inch heave in the National Collegiate Meet. He started the season by winning his event in the Drake Relays with a throw of 203 feet 4 inches. Then he won the event in the Illinois-Indiana-Purdue triangular meet with a throw of 206 feet 1 inch, and captured the Big Ten championship with a heave of 208 feet 5¼ inches.

He is always in the best of condition, and his main hobby, outside of competitive sports, is hunting and fishing. He is an exceptionally good shot with the rifle.



# Vaulters and Jumpers of 1933

## William Graber

FOR the third successive year, William Graber of the University of Southern California leads the pole vaulters on the National Collegiate Athletic Association Honor Roll, this time, for 1933, with a vault of 14 feet 1½ inches.

At the start of his sophomore year, Graber possessed speed and shoulder power but was deficient in timing. Coach Dean Cromwell worked with him to overcome this weakness, and Graber so increased his natural abilities that he rose in his first year of varsity competition from an almost unknown vaulter, occasionally clearing the bar at 12 feet, to I. C. A. A. A. champion with a recorded height of 14 feet ½ inch. At one of the Olympic Try-

outs of 1932, Graber vaulted 14 feet 4¾ inches.

Graber is twenty-three years old and is about six feet in height. In build he resembles Sabin Carr, Yale's great vaulter of a few years ago. He finished his inter-collegiate competition last year.

Graber attained great heights through almost perfect form and great speed and strength.

In the sensational finish of a night meet held at Soldier Field, Chicago, June 17 of last year, Graber tied for first place with Matthew Gordy for the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship. Competing against these two athletes were such well known vaulters as Lenington of Illinois, Wonsowitz of Ohio State, Miller of Stanford, Zimmerman of Tulane, Lovshin

of Wisconsin, Schram and Roark of Marquette, Holcomb of Michigan State and Lowry of Michigan Normal.

## Matthew Gordy

By B. H. Moore  
Track Coach, Louisiana State University

MATTHEW GORDY had a long, hard struggle in reaching great heights in the pole vault. When he first came to Louisiana State University, he was a pole breaker. In his first meet as a sophomore he almost killed himself. I believe if I had been Gordy I should have quit vaulting.

He weighed only about 145 pounds and he would break poles that were tested for a 170 pound man. It all came about by poor timing on the shift into the box. He got the pole into the box too late, and all of his weight flew right in to the pole just as it began to bend, which would snap the pole in two. It took two years to break him of this habit. He would either put the pole into the box too soon and not be able to rise off the ground, or get it there too late and swing in to the pole and break it. Finally, during the latter part of his junior year, he got the shift corrected.

He had another trouble. A long vaulting pole pulled in against his face and shoulders, and on his final push-up he was pushing away instead of pushing up. We finally cut off his pole to about thirteen feet and he would pull that pole directly in under his chest and get a very fine push-up.

It may be noted in the picture that Gordy has a very fine swing-up and gets his feet well up in the air in good position. It may also be noted that at the completion of this swing-up he has his arms bent and in a position to use all the strength that he has in his arms and shoulders to hoist himself up over the bar. This form he combines with a good jack-knife over the bar.

He vaulted 14 feet, using 12 feet 6 inches of pole. He could not run with any more pole because he did not have strength enough to carry it. I do not know whether he could have done any better if he had carried three or four more inches of pole, because he was not very tall and probably could not have swung up nearly so well.

His run was about 107 feet, and he used three check marks.

## William W. Miller

IN winning the pole vault at the Olympic Games in 1932, William W. Miller of Stanford University defeated some of the best vaulters of the past five years. The height he achieved in gaining this notable



William Graber, University of Southern California



victory was 14 feet 17/8 inches, which was his best that year. In 1933, he twice reached the 14 foot mark, but did not exceed it in official competition.

Miller began his vaulting at an early age, increasing his height under the stress of competition. Comparatively small, he has well-developed arms and shoulders which contribute much to his excellent mechanical control.

The first picture of Miller shows this vaulter during the course of his run. In the second picture, illustrating the swing-up, it may be noted that Miller's feet are well up in the air and in good position even before his arms have been brought into full play. The third picture shows Miller over the bar and again on his way to the ground.

In comparing the last two pictures of Miller with that of Matthew Gordy, allowance must be made for the height of the camera at the time the shutter was opened. Both pictures of Miller were taken with the camera only slightly below the level of the vaulter. The picture of Gordy, on the other hand, was taken from the ground almost below the vaulter and for that reason gives a false perspective. Had the camera been placed opposite the cross-bar, Gordy's hands would not have appeared to be so far below the bar. It should be noted, however, that, where it once was considered wise for a vaulter to change his hold on the pole each time the bar was raised, today the best vaulters do not change their grasp very much as the height of the bar is increased.

## Howard Spencer

By Robert Park

Track Coach, Geneva College

**H**OWARD SPENCER is a very congenial athlete and is full of wholesome fun. He is the life of the squad when



William W. Miller, Stanford University



Matthew Gordy, Louisiana State



Miller—the swing-up

he is feeling like having a good time. He is now a senior at Geneva College, is a very good student and well liked by the student body.

Spencer began jumping in the grade schools. At that time he was only 5 feet tall and was able to jump 5 feet 2 inches, showing early ability as a high jumper. His first instructor was a woman, Miss Shannon, of Watt Street Public School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At that time he used the scissors kick style of jumping. He became interested in the Western roll, and by hard work he accomplished the style without the aid of an instructor. Schenley High School of Pittsburgh did not want him because the coaches said he was too frail. He was very spindling in those days.

Soon after he entered Fifth Avenue

High School of Pittsburgh he began his meteoric career. He began to jump 6 feet, and reached 6 feet 3 inches in his junior year. His senior year was his best in high school. He won the Geneva Interscholastic at 6 feet, and the E. P. I. A. L. at Philadelphia at 6 feet 3 inches, breaking the record of George Spitz. He climaxed that year, 1930, by winning the National Interscholastics at Chicago at 6 feet 3 inches.

In his first collegiate meet after entering Geneva, the West Virginia Indoor Games, he cleared 6 feet 53/8 inches, setting a new district and meet record. He bettered his record at the Penn Relays, jumping 6 feet 53/4 inches, and equaling a seventeen year old mark. In his junior year he surpassed all previous marks, jumping 6 feet 61/4 inches at the West Virginia Indoor Games, and 6 feet 71/4 inches at the National A. A. U. meet held in Madison Square Garden in 1933.

This year, 1934, his senior year at Geneva, has so far been disastrous, for his knee has given him considerable trouble. However, he intends to compete this summer. Last year he was the best hurdler in the district in both the highs and lows, besides being a good broad jumper.

Spencer is 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 165 pounds stripped. He is slender and built for jumping. He is healthy in every respect being able to compete in four or five events with due success in each and never tiring or becoming exhausted.

Spencer uses the Western roll, with his approach from the left side. Instead of placing his left arm over the bar first, as do almost all other jumpers using this style, he wraps his in toward his chest or throws it behind his back, believing it to give him a better turn over the bar. One of his characteristics is that at the greater heights, from 6 feet 3 inches and up, he

(Continued on page 44)



Miller—over the bar

# Athletes Who Were Making Track History a Year Ago

## Joseph R. Mangan

By John F. Moakley

Track Coach, Cornell University

**J**OSEPH R. MANGAN finished his four years of running in February when he received his degree from Cornell University in Hotel Management. During his college career in track he ran the second fastest mile ever run by a Cornell man, and established a Cornell record in the two-mile run. John Paul Jones holds the Cornell record of 4 minutes 14.4 seconds for the mile run.

Mangan won his event in the Intercollegiate at Berkeley, California, in 1932, making his mile in 4 minutes 14.8 seconds. In the following year in the joint meet with Princeton against Oxford and Cambridge, he established a new college record of 9 minutes 15 seconds, breaking the former record, held by Tell Berna, of 9 minutes 17.8 seconds.

Mangan prepared at Rutland, Vermont, High School and entered College in February, 1930. He was twenty-one years old when he graduated. He had had very little experience in track when he came to Cornell.

He won the half mile against University School of Cleveland in his freshman year in 2 minutes 6 seconds. In his second year he won seconds and thirds in dual meets and qualified in his heats at the outdoor Intercollegiate.

In his junior year, he defeated Pen Halliwell indoors at Boston in the mile in 4 minutes 23 seconds and won the 1,000 yard run at the same meet. In the indoor Intercollegiate he finished in sixth place in 4 minutes 19 seconds being badly spiked in the first lap of the race. He was first against Yale and Michigan in the indoor meets held at Ithaca. Outdoors, he defeated Coan and McKniff in the University of Pennsylvania dual meet. The time was 4 minutes 17.2 seconds. He also won the half mile against Schaeffer at the same meet. In the Princeton dual meet he won the mile, defeating Dawson in 4 minutes 17.8 seconds, and he also won the half mile in 15 minutes 7 seconds. In the New York Athletic Club Spring Meet he ran the three-quarter mile in 3 minutes 4 seconds.

In his senior year, he won the mile and half mile in the indoor dual meets and finished second to Bonthron in the Intercollegiate. His senior year was his most brilliant in cross-country running. He made first place in all the dual meets and finished second to Ottey of Michigan

State in the Intercollegiate Cross-Country Run held last November over the Van Cortland Park Course.

During his first year he had a great deal of leg trouble, but was free from all that during his junior and senior years.

He helped himself through college by playing in orchestras, waiting on table and doing other odd jobs. He could play almost every musical instrument, but specialized on the banjo.

His best time for the quarter mile was 51 seconds and for the half mile 1 minute 54.8 seconds.

Mangan had a very easy style of running, keeping close to the ground, the knee locking well in front of him. His arm action was more of a push than a swing, the elbow and hand extending parallel with the ground and tucked in well toward the body. He was one of the smoothest runners that I ever had.

He was a hard worker, doing considerable road work. His development was due to gradual development of speed and staying power in training to run the half and the mile. It was his custom to run both races in the various dual meets.

In condition he weighed 143 pounds and was 5 feet 9¾ inches in height. He was fond of long hikes. These were taken mostly on Sundays and in vacation times. When he made the record of 9 minutes 15 seconds in the two-mile, he had been running the mile. It was decided a week before the English meet that he would run the two-mile and Bonthron the mile. He had only four days preparation for this race.

## Myron C. Pilbrow

By G. L. Duke

Track Coach, Grinnell College

**M**YRON C. PILBROW, National Collegiate two-mile champion of 1933, was a find as far as athletes go. He graduated from Hyde Park High School, Chicago, in 1929 and entered Grinnell College in the fall of the same year. While in high school his athletic activities were confined to playing on the lightweight basketball team. During his senior year in high school he competed in his first and only track meet before entering college. This was a half-mile race, which he won in 2:10.

Pilbrow reported for intramural cross-country in the fall of his freshman year and it was soon noted that he was a potential distance runner. In the spring of his freshman year he spent his time on the mile, his best record that year being 4:38.

During the indoor season of his sopho-

more year Pilbrow again devoted his time to the mile in an effort to develop speed. With the outdoor season he was changed to the two-mile. His best race that year was in the Iowa Collegiate Meet where he forced the winner, Ray Putnam of Iowa State, to a new record of 9:33.6. He placed sixth in the National Collegiate that year.

In his junior year his greatest triumph came when he defeated Chamberlain of Michigan State, 1931 National Collegiate champion, in the Central Intercollegiate Meet at Notre Dame. His time in this race was 9:24.2.

Pilbrow's best season was in his senior year. It was unfortunate that there happened to be a dearth of two-milers in the meets he competed in. He was not extended to win until his last race, the National Collegiate, which he won in 9:22.8.

He ran the anchor mile on a winning four-mile team at the Drake Relays in 1933. His best time for the mile made while at Grinnell was 4:21.

During his college career, Pilbrow was defeated only four times in a two-mile race. Two of these defeats were in National Collegiate Meets, one in the Iowa Collegiate Meet of 1931, and the last at the Drake Relays in 1932. In this Drake Relays race the present American collegiate mark of 9:13.6 was made by Brocksmith of Indiana, Pilbrow finishing in second place.

Pilbrow is a small man. He never weighed more than 127 pounds while in school. His weight when he was in condition was 123 pounds. It did not take much work to get him in shape, for he was the type that is always in good condition.

If I were asked to name the factors which made Pilbrow a successful runner, I would list them in this order:

1. A wholesome, active, outdoor life before entering college. He did not dissipate in any way before or during his college career. In other words, he had the background and reserve which a distance runner must possess.
2. Courage and a fighting heart. He was the type that was never beaten until the race was over. If beaten, he was eager for another race.
3. His interest in running. Next to his studies, running was his chief interest. This does not mean these were his only interests in college. He participated in many activities, but knew when to put first things first.
4. His ability to run his own race. He developed an uncanny judgment of pace.



Most of Pilbrow's time in training was spent upon building up speed and judgment of pace. This was done by running quarters. During the indoor and outdoor seasons he did no over-distance work. The only over-distance work he had was in cross-country, and then his longest race was over a four-mile course. During his senior year he ran two-mile team races instead of cross-country. In training for these races the boys all did some cross-country running to relieve the monotony of always running on the track.

One thing Pilbrow worked on constantly was the running of a fast last quarter. He did a great deal of work at three-fourths of a mile, with a fast first and last quarter. When Pilbrow was having trouble keeping his fifth and sixth quarters as fast as they should be, he would sometimes run a mile and a quarter or a mile and a half. If this work was undertaken, it was with the first quarter fast, the middle quarters just fast enough to bring on some fatigue, and the fifth and sixth quarters at the desired pace. I believe this emphasis placed upon the fast last quarter brought results as, with two exceptions, Pilbrow's first and last quarters were his fastest. His last quarter in the National Collegiate two-mile last year was run in 66 seconds.

We worked on the theory that, once in shape, Pilbrow should do only enough work to keep in shape and build up a reserve for the competitive racing. In Pilbrow's case, this required very little work.

Pilbrow had no peculiarities as far as form in running is concerned. He had a smooth easy stride, ran relaxed and carried his arms at about medium height. He ran probably a little higher on the ball of his foot than most distance runners. He never ran a particular man in his races. The field would be taken into consideration and a time schedule made out after estimating the caliber of the field. His uncanny ability to keep on his time schedule and the great "kick" he had at the finish won him many races.

Pilbrow was twenty-three years of age when he graduated, and his best races are undoubtedly ahead of him, if he has the time or opportunity to continue running. If boys of this type could somehow continue their competition after graduation, it would be a great thing for distance running in the United States. At present Pilbrow is employed in Rochester, New York.

## John J. Ryan

By Joseph M. Sheehan  
Manhattan College

THE achievement of John J. Ryan, Manhattan College distance runner, in winning the I. C. A. A. A. 3000-meter race at Cambridge, Massachusetts, last June is an outstanding and permanent testimonial to the sustained conscientious effort and rare competitive courage of this

runner, and to the training principles applied by his coach, Peter L. Waters.

Before entering into discussion of Ryan as a runner, there is one point that needs to be clarified. Contrary to the belief of some track followers, Ryan's victory over Joe McCluskey, one of the leading collegiate distance runners of the past decade, was no "fluke" or accident. Mathematical calculation and expert testimony indicate that Ryan's time of 8:36.4 for the 3000-meter race represents an achievement of 9:15 to 9:17 for the more familiar two-mile run. Completed under



Joseph R. Mangan, Cornell University

weather and track conditions that were by no means favorable, Ryan's performance ranks among the better marks of native Americans at these distances.

Ryan is far from being rugged. He stands 5 feet 9 inches in height, and in running condition never weighed more than 130 pounds. He was only twenty years old at the time of his winning race. It is unfortunate that he has hung up his track shoes for good since his graduation, for he was just reaching his athletic prime.

The Manhattan distance runner had very little experience before entering college. His only scholastic performance of note was an inconspicuous 4:47 victory in a local mile championship. Even in col-

lege he was comparatively unknown until his junior year. He gained places in both indoor and outdoor I. C. A. A. A. two-mile championships in that year (1932). His best performance previous to his victory last June was a creditable second to McCluskey in the Fordham runner's 9:16.2 two-mile victory in the indoor I. C. A. A. A. Meet of 1933. The indoor campaign of 1932-33 was by far Ryan's best, for he consistently ran in 9:20 to 9:30 behind McCluskey, George Lermond and John Follows in the invitation races at Madison Square Garden.

Weighing less than a hundred pounds, Ryan reported for cross-country in his junior year at Manhattan Prep. Coach Waters was astounded to see such a midget so anxious to take up track, and, inquiring from the boy the reason for his desire, discovered that the youth wished to match the athletic prestige of his older twin brothers, who were basketball stars at Manhattan Prep and later at Manhattan College.

Never once during his first year of running was Ryan permitted to cover the entire three-mile course, but he refused to become discouraged and gradually built up strength by jogging around the mile and a half flatlands of Van Cortlandt Park. The later details of his development as a runner have been outlined above.

Cross-country, incidentally, is claimed to be the main reason for Ryan's success. Daily running over the Van Cortlandt Park course during the fall months was the most important item of the runner's training diet for six years. Strengthened by his high school experience over the short course Ryan developed in his last two college years into one of the leading harriers in the East.

Waters is the firmest advocate of cross-country among the Eastern college coaches. Every member of his track squads, even the sprinters, hurdlers and quarter milers, is expected to take part in cross-country work. The value of such training is a controversial point among coaches, but in Manhattan's case at least it seems to have proved beneficial.

As a runner in the mechanical sense, Ryan was essentially a stylist. Lacking the power and strength of most of his rivals, he relied greatly upon his form, which he mastered so well that he seldom lost it, even in the most gruelling of races.

His running form was perhaps a bit unusual for a distance runner, differing greatly from the flat, apparently effortless gait of McCluskey and the powerful, loping stride of George Lermond. Ryan ran exceptionally high and employed a vigorous knee lift. Although he had a somewhat bounding stride, he applied the full power of his leg drive in front of him, and his kick-back was negligible.

Splendid body carriage while running and a fine sense of balance also aided him

(Continued on page 43)

# State Championship Basketball

## Arizona

By Rollin T. Gridley  
Tucson High School

SIXTEEN teams met at the University of Arizona during last March in what proved to be the most interesting tournament in the history of Arizona state basketball. This was because most of the teams were evenly matched; there was a greater number of good teams, and the individuals of the teams were big, rangy and fast. Of the group, Globe, second place winner, Peoria, Phoenix, Mesa, St. John, Miami and Tucson were the outstanding teams.

Types of offense and defense were fairly well distributed among the teams. Globe used the conventional zone defense with a quick-break; against a set defense this team used a spot pass, but in the main depended on the quick-break, coupled with some uncanny and accurate shooting once within basket range. Phoenix used a zone type defense: three men back and two in front, who played man-for-man. The offense was of the deliberate type, the players working the ball down the floor and trying by short passes or screens to score at close range. St. John used both the man-for-man defense and the zone, but was partial to the zone. St. John worked mainly on the quick-break and attempted to score from any spot within basket range. Peoria played a man-for-man game all over the floor. This, coupled with a quick-break on interception of the ball, proved to be a good game with Peoria's big and fast team. Miami and Mesa played a man-for-man defense with a more or less deliberate offense of the conventional type. They attempted by screens by forwards on the side lines or by pivot plays to work the ball in to the basket.

Most of the teams using the man-for-man defense did not switch or shift men when coming into a screen play. This was probably due to the fact that most of the

teams played an assigned man-for-man. Most of the teams placed a premium on getting the ball at center, rather than trying to execute a definite play from the tip. In general, all showed improvement over past years in handling of the ball, shooting, floor and defensive work. Most teams played the forwards inside and on opposite sides of the floor, with the center shifting his position around the free throw area.

Tucson, winner of the tournament, played a five-man, retreated man-for-man defense. The forwards and center checked the first two men of the offense through



Rollin T. Gridley, Arizona

to the guards, and the third man was picked up by the forwards or center. On occasions against certain teams one or more players would be assigned men to guard. The two front men of the defense met the ball well out on the floor, usually in the front court. On screen plays there was a shift or switching of men. From this defense, on interception of the ball the team broke, crisscrossing and using short passes, rolls and dribbles, advancing the ball for a close shot.

Against a set defense, Tucson used the forwards on opposite sides of the court, with the center around the basket. From this formation the players attempted to work a number of optional plays with short passing, rolls and blocks, and cuts to the basket for short shots. Diagrams 1 and 2 may give some idea of the Tucson offense.

Diagram 1 shows a Tucson play that begins with a pass from X5 to X3. X5 follows his pass and may receive a return pass from X3. A usual pass, however, is from X3 to X2, who has faked toward the center of the floor and then cut toward the

basket. X1 screens X2's guard. X2 may then pass to X5 or he may himself take a short shot.

In the play of Diagram 2, X5 passes to the pivot post player, X1. X5 and X2 crisscross in front of X1. X1 may pivot and shoot, or he may pass to either X2 or X5 for short shots.

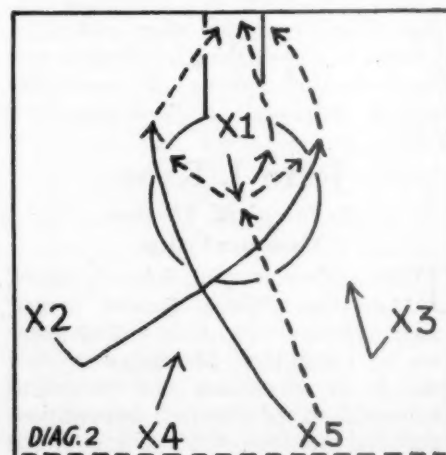
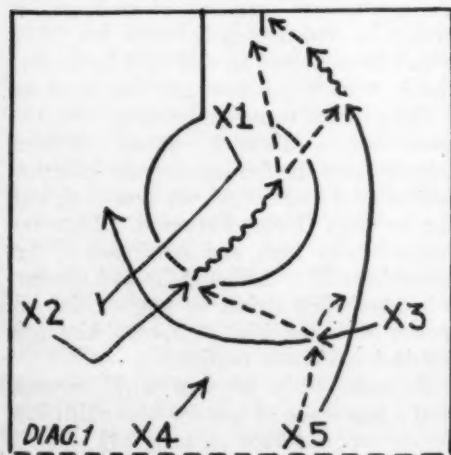
## Arkansas

By W. A. Dunaway  
Junius Jordan High School, Pine Bluff

THE Arkansas State High School Basketball Tournament was played at Harrison on March 9 and 10. Pine Bluff won this tournament for the second consecutive year, this being the first time on record a team has won the Arkansas championship twice in a row.

Our victory was unexpected in that we had lost four regulars from last year's team, and the regular center on this year's team was lost by death one week before the tournament. To win the tournament Pine Bluff defeated Sheridan, 27 to 26; Walkerville, 51 to 38; and Fordyce, 47 to 46. The last, the championship game, has been called one of the most exciting contests in the history of state basketball. The Fordyce team was a big favorite, because of the height of the men and their season's record.

The championship game started off with Fordyce running up a lead of 25 to 16 in the first half. In the third quarter Pine Bluff came back and scored 18 points while holding Fordyce to 2 points. The score at the end of the third quarter was 34 to 27 in favor of Pine Bluff. In the fourth quarter this lead was increased 3 additional points, but, with three minutes to play, Fordyce had overcome this and gained a one point lead. During the last three minutes of the game the lead changed four different times. Fordyce scored its last field goal with ten seconds to play. The Fordyce center, who measured 6 feet 6





inches tall, tipped the ball behind him, and one of Pine Bluff's boys took it and dribbled under the goal for the shot which won the game.

The average height of the Fordyce team was about 6 feet 3 inches. Pine Bluff's team was composed of one man who was 6 feet tall, one 5 feet 11 inches, two 5 feet 10 inches, and one 5 feet 6 inches tall.

Pine Bluff used a fast-break offense with no set plays, because it was impossible for us to control the tip. Our team was made up of boys who had a great deal of determination and a spirit to win that pulled them through the championship game, in which they overcame a big lead by a team that was almost as good and much larger.

We employed an assigned, man-for-man defense throughout the season, trying to use our best defensive player against our opponent's best offensive player. We had a quick-breaking team that handled the ball well under speed. The men were average in shooting ability but unusually good under pressure. We drilled throughout the season on a fast-break and worked steadily on improving our defense. We were a little weak on free throwing and lost at least two of the five regular season games during the year by failure to make the free throws count. We played thirty-six games during the year and lost five of them.

Most of the teams in the tournament used a man-for-man defense. The majority used a fast-break, while a few used a zone defense and a slow-break. After the schedule started in January, we did little scrimmaging during the practice periods because we had so many games. Our practice, most of the time, consisted of drill work in breaking, dribbling, pivoting, passing and shooting.

Our 1934 championship team was built around one regular left from last year's championship team, W. S. Stewart, who was picked as an all-state forward in 1933 and as an all-state guard in 1934. He was especially clever at handling the ball in faking and passing and an exceptionally good defensive player. Nichols, our other guard, who was also picked as an all-state man, played an outstanding part in our



W. A. Dunaway, Arkansas

victory at the tournament, being responsible for the last basket in the championship game and for a number of others during the game. Red Benett, 5 feet 11 inches tall, who had been junior center, was moved up to senior center upon the death of our regular center the week before the tournament and accounted for 16 points in the championship game. Paul Burnett, our running guard, 5 feet 6 inches tall, played a very important part in the championship game with his clever dribbling and passing. Jack Sims, forward, who was picked on the second all-state team, was especially good at breaking and going in under the basket for shots; he was also a strong defensive player.

I think the outstanding feature of our team was the speed of the men, their ability to handle the ball while going at top speed and the spirit that would not allow them to be beaten. The last half of the game against Fordyce was certainly inspired basketball. The game at the half was dedicated to our dead center, Ray Hughes, and the third quarter, I think, showed some of the effects of this. One of the boys said, "They might beat five of us, but they couldn't beat six of us," referring to the dead member of our squad. Another feature of our team was the ability to come through in a pinch.

The tournament as a whole was one of the fastest in several years, the teams being well matched, as several games were won by very close scores. Other outstanding teams in the tournament, besides those already mentioned, were Batesville, Crossett, Hope, Little Rock and Hot Springs.

## Florida

By Ed Parnell  
Edison High School, Miami

**B**ASKETBALL in the state of Florida is rapidly gaining in popularity. Evidence to substantiate this statement was shown in our State High School Tournament this year by the increased attendance over preceding years and the number of close and well played games.

The majority of teams in our tourna-

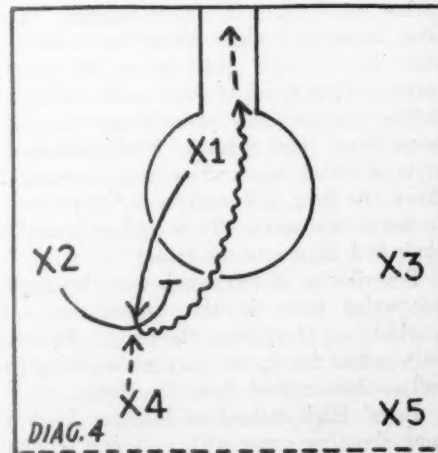
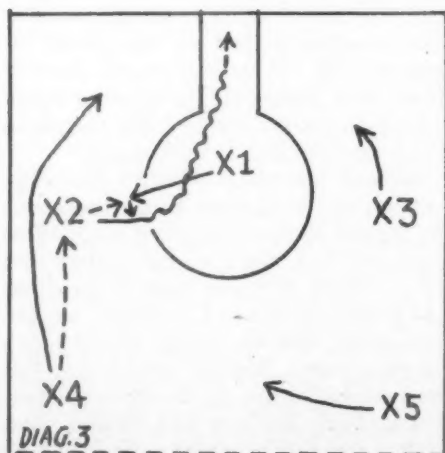
ment used the fast-breaking type of offense, while the man-to-man defense seemed to predominate.

The offense that we used successfully at Miami Edison in twenty-six out of twenty-eight games was a slow-breaking offense. We admit that teams who come down the court at full speed, passing the ball back and forth from all angles, look good at times, but we also believe that there are more times when these teams lose possession of the ball by wild passes, traveling and hurried shots than there are times when they score. Taking these things into consideration, we stressed the importance of gaining possession of the ball and having patience to keep maneuvering until we had freed a man for a close shot. In our games this year we were in possession of the ball the majority of the playing time; as a result we were able to hold our opponents to rather low scores. While we had possession of the ball, our opponents could not score but were likely to foul in their anxiety to get the ball. In one of our tournament games we defeated a team which scored more field goals than we. During the year we had only three men removed from games with four fouls and two of those were in an early season game.

Our offense requires that every man be a good ball handler and a good dribbler. We allow the defense to get set, and then by putting our center in front of the basket near the free throw line and a forward on each side of the court we attempt to free a man by screening off his guard. Our guards bring the ball into the front court and when necessary a forward drops back to help. From the set-ups in Diagrams 3 and 4, we are able to work out a number of scoring possibilities.

In the play shown in Diagram 3, X4 passes to X2 and drives in close to X2. If X4's guard is screened off by X2, the latter gives X4 a return pass. If not, X2 fakes to X4 and passes to X1, who has taken a position outside the free throw circle. X2 breaks by X1 to screen off his own guard, takes a return pass from X1 and dribbles in for a shot.

In the play shown in Diagram 4, X1 and X2 come out close together. X4 passes to



X1, and X2 breaks around X1 to screen off X1's guard. X1 dribbles behind X2. If X1 is covered he passes to X3 and goes over to screen for him; then X3 drives in.

We used the man-to-man defense exclusively. When playing against a team using a screening offense we found that exchanging men worked successfully.

In closing I would like to say that the boys who made up our team this year were as fine a group as could be assembled. They worked incessantly as a team, and not as individuals. Each boy realized the importance of strict training and clean living, which, in the end, proved a big factor in our success.

## Georgia

By Selby H. Buck, Jr.  
Lanier High School, Macon

IN one respect the Georgia basketball season of 1933-34 was much the same as the 1932-33 season in that the teams representing the leading schools were very nearly equal in strength.

Lanier High School of Macon, the 1933 champion, defended its title successfully against Tech High School of Atlanta, the same team which it met in the finals in 1933.

Some idea of the equality of the teams may be secured from the following. In its regular season play, Lanier participated in twelve games, which brought it into action with six teams, each team being played twice, once in Macon and once on its opponent's court. Seven of the games were won and five lost, which would indicate that when the tournament opened it was very difficult to pick a favorite. In winning the tournament, Lanier defeated Benedictine of Savannah in the first round, 34 to 27. On the next night, Lanier faced its stiffest test in downing Boys' High School of Atlanta, 37 to 32. In the final round against Tech High School of Atlanta, Lanier was at its best and won, 38 to 22.

The style of play of the different teams varied offensively. Defensively, however, all of the teams used a man-for-man defense except Boys' High School of Atlanta, which used a shifting zone defense.

As stated above, offensively the play was varied. Savannah High School had a rather small team of "race horses." To meet them on a night when they were at their best would spell defeat for most teams. They finished third in the tournament, winning the consolation play-off from Boys' High School. Their principal style of attack was a three-man fast-break down the floor, followed by a fourth man in the second wave. They seldom brought their fifth man into the attack.

Benedictine of Savannah was the most successful team in the tournament on working set plays from the pivot. Failure to win was due to the players' inability to follow their missed shots effectively.

Boys' High School of Atlanta used a long shooting game with a strong follow-

up. This team was always dangerous. The center, Maffett, was chosen as all-state center.

Tech High School of Atlanta, the runner-up, began the season with a screening game which it used less and less as the season went on. This team had two clever guards and two clever forwards, the center being the weak spot. Lanier capitalized on this to defeat Tech handily in the finals.



Ed Parnell, Florida



Selby H. Buck, Jr., Georgia

Pittman, forward, and Schutte, guard, were chosen for the all-state team.

The 1934 Lanier team was practically a new team, only one regular returning from the 1933 team. Lacking the speed and cleverness of the 1933 team, the 1934 team was blessed with height. On this factor we worked all year, and the team reached its peak at the right time.

Probably the strongest point of the team was its reserve strength, the second team being very nearly equal to the first. It

would be hard to pick out individual stars. Smith, a guard, and Jones, a forward, were chosen all-state; Farren and Miachel the two centers, in my opinion were first class basketball players. Captain Thompson, the only veteran from the 1933 team, was a steadying influence.

The style of play we used differed a little from that of the year before. Having the tallest center in the state, we used more tip-off plays successfully and must have averaged about 10 points per game from the tip-off. Not having the speed necessary for the fast-break we seldom tried to use it, except from the tip-off. On back-board retrieves and out-of-bounds plays, we brought the ball up the floor with the usual dribble and attempted set plays with the center on the pivot line and the two forwards wide on each side. The guards brought the ball up. The ball handling was only mediocre; so not many of the set plays worked. The offensive back-board work was fine, and we turned quite a few poor shots into goals by well timed follow shots.

The tournament, held in the Municipal Auditorium in Macon, was sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Macon. It was a financial success.

## Idaho

By Gale L. Mix  
Moscow High School

THE Idaho State Championship Tournament in basketball was staged in the University of Idaho Gymnasium on March 15th, 16th and 17th. Eight district champions were hosts of the University. Moscow High School won the state championship for the second consecutive year. The "hard times" did not keep the crowds away from the tournament, and in the championship game on the final night between Moscow and Pocatello, the cash gate exceeded by \$100 that for any other contest ever held in the University Gymnasium.

Practically all of the teams in the tournament this year used a fast-breaking or semifast-breaking offense, holding on to the ball for sure shots rather than taking gambling shots. Pocatello and Rexburg used the fastest breaking offense, and Pocatello especially had an exceptional offensive team. Pocatello's guards (both of them were placed on the all-state team) were good scorers and had size enough to check any forwards in the tourney.

Moscow was rated as only a fair team, because of a good many losses throughout its regular season. We were weak offensively and had only one man on the squad who could be depended upon as a consistent scorer. That was Lyle Smith, a guard and center, who was placed on last year's all-state team. Moscow used a man-for-man defense, and so did Pocatello, Bonners Ferry, Paul, Rexburg and Salmon City. Nampa and Culdesac used a checking 2-1-



2 zone defense. Most of the Idaho state schools have been changing from a zone to a man-for-man defense in recent years, realizing that the tournaments are held on large courts and that their zone defenses, built to cover small courts, are very ineffective on a maximum size floor.

We built up one of the best defensive teams that the state has seen in recent years. Only thirteen baskets were scored against Moscow in three games; a total of forty points. Each of the three teams played by Moscow was a strong offensive team and each had exceeded forty points in some other game played in the tournament. Harold Roise, a guard on the Moscow team, was rated as the best defensive player ever seen in an Idaho tournament. State officials placed him on the second all-state team and kept him off of the first team because of his lack of scoring.

We used an offense similar to that we employed last year and tried to develop three different systems of attack: a fast-break; a set system of play with a center under the basket and one forward and one guard on either side of the court; and a system in which the center or pivot man shifted to the center of the court, leaving open the area under the basket. We changed our attack as we met each team. This practice proved very effective. Our screen plays were simple, with the center under the basket, or either forward starting in the corner and making a pivot on the free throw line, as key men in the attack. We used several double screens and they, too, proved effective, because most opponents would switch men on the first screen and let the second man cut in to the basket. These particular plays proved our best, as we were handicapped in size; our tallest man stood only 5 feet 11 inches in height. Our men were forced to gain good shooting positions, as they recovered very few rebound shots against their tall opponents.

Brown of Paul High School was the high scorer of the tournament. Smith of Moscow High was a few points behind him. Pocatello High School was the tournament runner-up, Rexburg High School the consolation winner and Paul High School, which represented the largest district in the state, was awarded the sportsmanship trophy.

## Illinois

By S. O. Storby

Senior High School, Quincy

THE Twenty-Seventh Annual Illinois High School Basketball Tournament was held in the Men's New Gymnasium at the University of Illinois under the auspices of the Illinois High School Athletic Association, March 22, 23 and 24, with sixteen teams participating. The opinion of the coaches, augmented by the doubling of attendance records, proclaimed the new

sixteen team high school basketball tournament an outstanding success.

Quincy High, victorious in thirty-one of the thirty-three games played during the season, had the unique experience of winning the state championship the first time it entered the state finals.

The success of the Quincy team should be attributed to the following numerous factors: rugged and alert players, ability to handle the ball effectively, accuracy in shooting, individual and team defensive



Gale L. Mix, Idaho

ability, reserve strength, mental poise, physical courage and a fine team spirit.

The majority of the teams used the fast-breaking offense. Six of the teams were very effective on long shots. One of the teams in the quarterfinals relied on the long shot type of attack almost altogether, but it was not successful and consequently this team lost the game. Most of the teams seemed to place an unusual amount of stress on offense. The above fact takes cognizance that it is necessary to have more offense than defense. However, after a team is ahead, a good defense is of more value than a good offense.

It appeared that several teams had been

so successful during the season in getting behind the defense with their fast-breaking offense that when they met alert defensive teams they could not work the ball through. If they happened to be behind, the effect was similar to stalling, because basketball is played within a specified time.

Of the four types of defense used in the tournament, the sliding zone and the shifting man-to-man were used by a greater number of teams than either the retreating zone or the assigned man-to-man defenses.

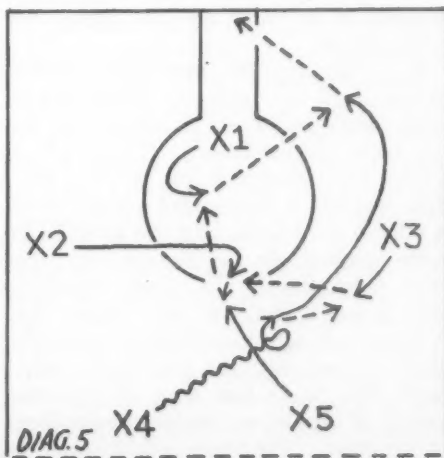
In football this phrase, "speed, power and deception," is very much stressed. In basketball we might use this phrase, "quickness, power and deception." The fast-breaking team relies too much on the element of speed. A team with a balanced offense and defense does not allow itself to be left weak defensively after it has started its drive for the basket. Careful handling of the ball, active rebound work and interchanging of forwards and guards make it impossible for the opponents to have an open court for their fast-breaking offense. A fast-breaking team has success against another fast-breaking team because the former does not have a strong defense to penetrate. That was Quincy's experience this season.

We should not forget that a game must have offensive possibilities if it is to have a following. A team that uses a driving delayed offense will hold the interest of the spectators more than one which uses the stalling delayed offense. A driving delayed offense gives a team rather consistent scoring power because most of the players are in scoring position at various times. This is demonstrated by Diagram 5, which shows one of the basic plays of the Quincy offense. X4 dribbles to the front line defense, pivots, fakes to X5 and passes to X3, who meets the ball. X3 passes to X2, who has moved to the free throw circle. X2 pivots and passes to X5, who either dribbles in toward the basket, shoots or passes to X1, breaking out. X1 either returns the pass, shoots or passes to X4, cutting in.

The take-off or companion plays are worked from this formation. This type of offense enabled four of the Quincy team, Barclift, Bingaman, Rineberg and Hall, to be among the first ten scorers in the Tri-State Conference during the season, as well as in the state meet.

The team was composed of rugged, alert boys who were described by critics as exceptional ball handlers. They were capable of playing each other's positions effectively and this proved to be a great asset when the complicated screen plays were used.

During the tournament, Reeves played guard and center; Roan, center and forward; Barclift, forward and center; Zimmerman, guard and forward. This shifting of positions gave balance to the offense and added confusion to the opposing team employing the assigned man-to-man.



The team was compelled to be alert because no signals were used and the plays received their inception from the position of the key defensive men. The offense was not built around any one man, and therefore it was not stopped consistently by any team during the last twenty-five games played.

That the Quincy Blue Devils displayed a high scoring offense and a powerful defense during the season is proved conclusively by the season's record. The quintet averaged 36.6 points per game and allowed opponents an average of 14.5 points per game. The Blue and White team was victorious in thirty-one of the thirty-three games played during the season, winning twenty-five consecutive games against representative schools since December 29, 1933, by at least seven point margins, including decisive victories over the two teams which had defeated it in the early season games in December. The fast, hard "third eye" passing was the Quincy team's greatest asset in piercing the zone defense.

A friendly competitive desire on the part of each boy to improve himself brought out great individual performances. John Bingham, second team all-state forward selection, a right-handed boy, was very adept in making left-handed shots. Perry Barclift, first team all-state forward selection, demonstrated conclusively what he could do when he set an all-time individual scoring record of 22 points in the championship game. He made seven baskets out of his first nine attempts, four of them coming in succession during the beginning of the third quarter. He averaged eleven baskets out of twenty-two attempts during the game. This marvelous exhibition will long be remembered. Bill Rineberg's rebound work was outstanding. The defensive work of Bobby Reeves and his interception of passes are to be commended, and Harry Hall's long shot attack would have pulled any defense out. The rôles played by Roan and Zimmerman as substitutes were of a high caliber. The performances of Turner, Evans and Martin, other substitutes, were satisfactory.

During the state tournament, Quincy displayed a good defense but a mediocre offense until the semifinal game with Moline. In contrast, the Purple Flying Cloud from Thornton in the first three games displayed a smooth working, efficient, high scoring machine that at times held the large crowd spellbound.

In the Moline game, when the Quincy Blue Devil quintet scored 16 points in the first quarter to its opponent's 1, it gave a mere hint of the latent power which the team possessed if it could only release it at the proper time.

Throughout the season the Quincy team had scored consistently and had shown that it possessed the ability to go on a scoring spree during at least one quarter of every game. In the final tournament game, against Jack Lipe's Thornton High

boys, Barclift's machine-gun fire at the basket in the early part of the third quarter proved to be the downfall of the fighting team from Harvey. Quincy's defensive tactics at the tip-off, in held ball situations and around the backboard throughout the entire game, and especially during the last half, made it impossible for Thornton to come back. In the Thornton game, even if Quincy lost the ball at the tip-off, our team secured it soon after. Cautious handling of the ball during the last half enabled Quincy to retain possession and to win by a commanding score.

Five determined boys with a balanced



S. O. Storby, Illinois

offense and an alert, stubborn defense were able to defeat a team which was exceptionally strong offensively but weak defensively.

## Iowa

By Leslie H. Davis  
East High School, Sioux City

HIGH school basketball in Iowa enjoyed a most prosperous season. Admission prices were cut to a minimum and these popular prices allowed the entire community to come out and enjoy the many games.

Approximately 800 Iowa teams entered the sectional tournaments. About 550 of these teams were Class B schools and the remainder were Class A. The Class B schools were those with less than one hundred students in high school and the Class A schools were those with one hundred or more enrolled. In the sectional and district tournaments, the teams maintain their A and B classifications. Eight Class A teams and eight Class B teams go to the state tournament. At this final tournament, the teams lose their classification and all of the sixteen teams are considered in one class. The teams are arranged in

alphabetical order and this year the system used was that the first team on the list played the second team and so on down through the list, making it a straight elimination affair without a consolation tournament for those teams losing in the first round.

The basketball displayed in the Iowa State Basketball Tournament this year was of average caliber. The tournament lacked the brilliant individual performers of most tournaments, but most of the coaches agreed that this phase of the tournament was more than taken care of by the fine team play exhibited in most of the games.

About ten out of the sixteen teams competing in the state tournament employed the zone type of defense. Most of the zones used also had a considerable amount of the man-for-man type mixed in. The teams ranking in first, second and third places used the zone type of defense, and all three teams used it in a different form. The team from George used two men in the front line, two men just outside of the free throw line and a big guard under the basket. The entire team shifted with the ball, the defense keeping the same form until the ball was passed through. Then the defense became more of a 2-3 zone, with the three men back taking care of their special area. This defense worked very well until it went up against West Waterloo's quick-break, which was very fast and well timed. The West Waterloo team used a zone with three men in the front line and the two good-sized guards in the back line. This defense was very elastic, and the weak side forward would drop back, taking the offensive man on his side of the floor. I think the strength of this defense was in the power it gave to this fine team's offense.

Our team used what is commonly known as the 2-1-2 zone. We changed our defense from time to time from a tight five-man zone to a pressing type of zone. We had our forwards meeting the offensive guards at the ten-second line and making it difficult for them to pass the ball in to their team mates. Our three back men played in a straight line across the floor just behind the free throw line and employed many man-for-man tactics. When we met a team using the pivot play with all of its screening, we employed a tight three-man zone, with our center just behind the free throw line and our two guards back under the basket.

Our entire defense is built on what we think are the real fundamentals. We spend a lot of time on footwork and body position. We have built up what amounts to a tradition that an interception in basketball is more valuable, from a scoring viewpoint, than it is in football, and we work hard on intercepting the ball. Our guards spend a lot of time on taking the ball off the back board and getting it out and started up the floor. Several years ago, we had a guard who developed a very fine



defensive stunt. When he got the ball off the back board he would give it a little extra push upwards to get it out of the hands of any opponents who might also have their hands on the ball. This little stunt has lived on, and our guards find that it comes in very handy in getting the ball. Each week, all of our boys work against men breaking down the floor, and we use many little stunts to break up the timing of the play and delay it until help comes. A defensive practice we insist on is that the offensive man be forced to the side lines into unfavorable shooting areas. When a shot is made by an opponent our players hurry him.

The teams using the man-for-man type of defense used it in the ordinary style. I do not believe there was quite so much of the so-called checking of men as usual. Diagonal, our first game opponent, used a very effective man-for-man defense all over the floor. There was a surprise element for us in this form of defense and we had a very hard time defeating this fine team. However, this type of defense is very strenuous for growing high school boys, and our team was able to make a last quarter rally and win by a 23 to 19 score. Personally, I favor some kind of zone for high school boys, in that it takes some of the overexertion argument away from critics of the game. Without a doubt, a high school team composed of boys of sixteen and seventeen years of age will come out of a game less tired using a zone defense than they would had they used a man-for-man. It seems to me that after all it is the boys' welfare that we must consider first in any game.

Most of the teams used a quick-breaking offense. This offense took several forms. Waterloo used the straight down-the-floor, three-man quick-break, with the center man controlling the ball to the free throw line and then passing to the forward on either side or continuing his dribble in for a set-up. Roosevelt High of Des Moines used a semi-quick-break with a crisscross, short passing attack which might have one of the guards drive in for the score.

The man in the hole or pivot style of play was used considerably when the quick-break failed to materialize. The tournament lacked brilliant pivot men who could handle their bodies well enough to make the pivot play outstanding. Our center handled it fairly well, but, when a good defensive man got on him, the play resulted in too many held balls or loss of the ball because of the three-second rule. Of course the presence of so many teams using the zone would naturally tend to do away with the pivot post type of play.

There was not so much one-handed shooting as usual. There were a few specialty artists, but generally speaking, the basket shooting took the chest shot form. Some of the boys imitated the more experienced professional players in that they kept their heels together on set shots.

Our offense was built around a few fundamentals. Our most stressed fundamental was that of ball handling. We try to have our boys handle the ball expertly. A common cry around our gym is "Handle that ball!" We do not allow clowning with the ball but try to impress upon the boys that they must make fast, accurate and well timed passes.

We make our practice sessions quite different from day to day. We have about twenty drills that we use, and each day we use some of these drills. As the boys do not know ahead of time what drills we are going to use on any particular day in prac-



Leslie H. Davis, Iowa

tice, some of the "practice dread" is taken from our sessions. These drills are all based on game conditions. For instance, when a forward breaks in for a basket, he has a guard on him. Or, when we are practicing jump balls, there is always some one jumping against our jumper and always an opponent fighting to get the ball after the jump. In this way, when the weekly games come along the boys play much the same as they do each night in practice, and the surprise element responsible for so many of the mistakes in athletics is greatly diminished.

We maintain that basketball is a game of quick starting and quick stopping. After our preliminary basket shooting period of twenty-five minutes each day, every player is kept on the move. We emphasize speed almost daily. We must, however, keep this speed down to a workable rate. If we are not careful the boys will begin going so fast that they lose their body control and timing in passing and cutting. We allow very little dribbling, especially along the side of the court. If a man is going to dribble we stress the necessity of getting to the middle of the floor and to the free throw line where we have men cutting in on both sides and plenty of room to work. Of course, our guards must be good drib-

blers in bringing the ball up the floor, and our front line men must also have the ability to dribble in for set-ups following quick interceptions.

I have mentioned that our drills are always under game conditions. Let me qualify that statement here by saying that, regardless of how many regulars we have left over from the previous year, we spend the first eight or ten practice sessions each year going over all the fundamentals without any opposition. Each day we follow up on the same fundamental we practiced the day before. The returning letter men take a great deal of pride in demonstrating the different fundamentals for the newcomers of the squad. We go to game conditions slowly and have our good boys work against some of the underclassmen at first so that the things they are striving for will work the first time they try them; so they gain considerable confidence in themselves and the things we tell them. As the early season practice advances we see to it that the opposition slowly gets a little more difficult. I have found that time spent on set plays in high school basketball, at the sacrifice of the real fundamentals of the game, is a waste of time.

We generally work out about one and one-half hours a day. We always plan our practice and give each drill and fundamental a certain amount of time, according to its importance.

The basketball coach must be a tireless worker, not too much of a driver, and always ready to help one of his men in his special problems. I think the coach must watch his men closely and to a certain extent, especially on tournament days, see that they are kept comfortable and satisfied.

## Maine

By W. L. Mansfield  
Winslow High School

THE Maine Basketball Tournament was closely played this year before crowds that broke all attendance records. All through the state of Maine, basketball enjoyed its most popular year. Games were played before tremendous crowds, and enthusiasm was at a high pitch throughout the season.

Winslow High won the Maine tournament again this year, meeting its hardest opposition in the semifinals against Presque Isle High School. Milo High was the tournament upset when it went into the finals after having eliminated Sterns High of Millinocket, one of the big tournament favorites.

The types of defense were evenly divided. Four teams used a man-to-man defense and four used a zone defense. Winslow used a shifting zone defense with a fast-breaking offense. The Winslow offense is straight down the floor and depends on out-speeding the other team. If this offensive drive fails, a short passing attack is



W. L. Mansfield, Maine

used with every man in the offensive court. In the defense, the right and left forward shift in behind center, so that at all times there are three men between the ball and the basket.

The Winslow defense is shown in Diagram 6. Here the ball is in the defensive area opposite the right forward. When the ball shifts to the other side of the floor, the left forward comes out to meet it, and the right forward comes in to the middle position between the ball and the basket.

Winslow did very well with tip-off plays this past year. One of the favorite ones is shown in Diagram 7. The ball is tipped to the right forward, X3. The right forward tips it over his head to the right guard, X5, who has gone down the floor and who shoots. The left guard, X4, crosses over to take the right guard's place on defense, and the left forward, X2, comes back to take the left guard's place.

## Minnesota

By Harvey J. Roels  
Chisholm High School

THE Minnesota State Basketball Tournament, held in Minneapolis on March 21, 22 and 23, was conducted as in previous years. The winners of eight regional championships, representing thirty-two districts, contested for the title in the huge Minneapolis Auditorium. The Chisholm High School Blue Streaks, representing the strong Iron Range section, won the tournament, defeating Saint Paul Mechanic Arts High School in the finals in a closely contested battle.

On the whole, all games ran true to early predictions, with only one major upset spoiling the forecasts of sports writers and dopesters. Minneapolis South, one of the favorites, fell before a rangy Redwood Falls quintet in a first round game. In the semifinals, Saint Paul Mechanic Arts

nosed out Redwood Falls, 21 to 17, and Chisholm swamped Moorhead, 50 to 17.

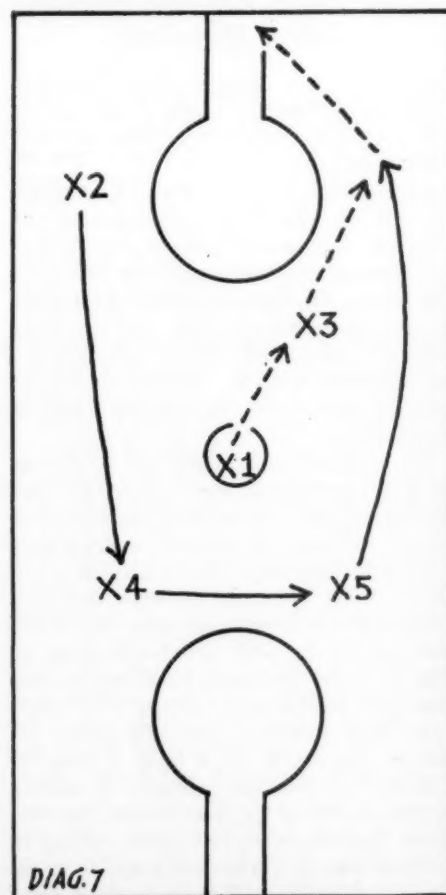
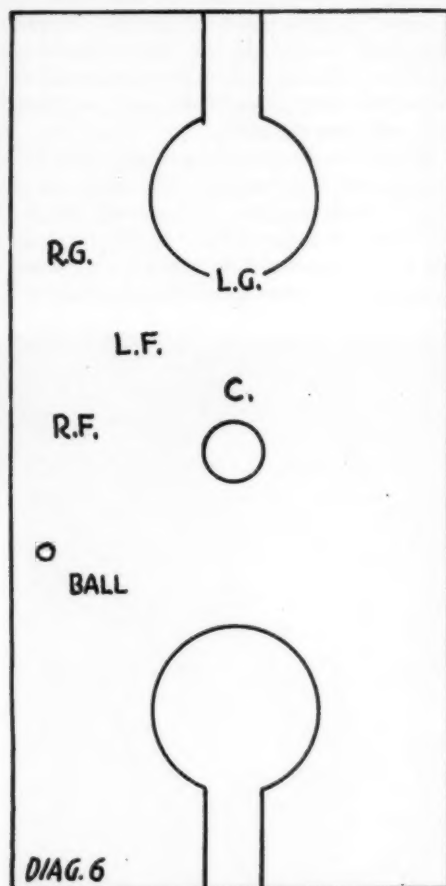
Offensively, all of the eight teams used

the man-in-the-hole type of play, with a forward on either side. After the guards had advanced the ball, the play varied in some cases. Several teams used both outside and inside screen plays to free the guards in the scoring area, while others pulled the center to the side of the court to allow for driving cuts to the basket. In the final game, Saint Paul Mechanic Arts did not attempt consistently to work the ball in for close shots but depended upon long tries from mid-floor with a marked degree of success. This was contrary to the style of play used in this team's two previous games.

Six of the eight teams used various forms of man-for-man defense. The two using a zone did not survive the semifinal round. The switching type of man-for-man seemed to prove the most effective, and it was this form of defense which was used by Chisholm. In the three games, only 56 points were scored by Chisholm's opponents, or an average of a little over 18 points per game.

In general, the caliber of ball played this year in the state tournament exceeded that of previous seasons. More high class teams were represented than usual, and all teams appeared to be well coached. For five successive years, the writer has had teams in the state meet, and it is his opinion that better all-around play was manifested during this tournament than in any of the others in which his teams participated.

Chisholm was represented by a big rangy team and, consequently, was able to use different types of offense to suit the occasion. Two of the regulars were 6 feet 3 inches tall, one 6 feet and the two others 5 feet 10 inches tall. An overhead style of game was usually played, with a great deal of emphasis placed on rebounds. The team, because of the unusual size of its individuals, scored heavily in this manner.



Harvey J. Roels, Minnesota



The hole position was played by a boy 6 feet 3 inches tall who weighed 210 pounds. He proved to be the highest scorer in the tournament and a powerful defensive player as well.

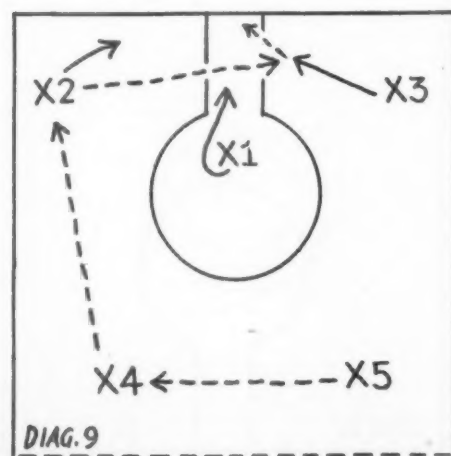
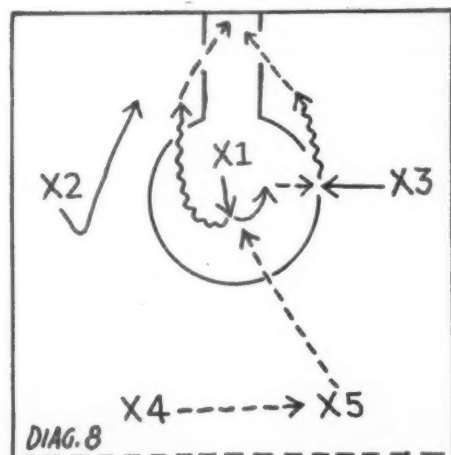
Against a man-for-man defense, the forwards played near the side lines and even with the pivot player, as shown in Diagram 8. The play was from the guards to either the center or the forwards. Either of the latter might pull out on a return pass to the guards cutting in for a shot. However, the most effective scoring play was to have the man in the hole pull out to allow a tall forward to cut in through center for a set-up shot. Against a zone defense, the forwards played deeper in the corners, as shown in Diagram 9. The pass was usually from a guard to a forward, and then to the opposite forward coming in for a shot, with the center playing for the rebound.

Diagrams 8, 9 and 10 illustrate a few typical plays.

In Diagram 8, X4 passes to X5, and the latter passes to X1. X1 lays out the ball to X3, who dribbles in for a shot. Or X1 may feint a lay out, pivot and dribble in himself. X2 screens on his side of the court.

In Diagram 9, X5 passes to X4, who passes to X2. X2 passes high to X3, who shoots. X1 and X2 play for the rebound.

In Diagram 10, X4 passes to X5, who passes to X3. X1 pulls out as indicated.



X2, after a feint, cuts in through center to take a pass from X3.

During the season, as well as during the state tournament, we used both the slow, deliberate style of play and the fast-break. The style we used at any particular time depended a great deal upon the type of play used by our opponents. In our first game, we played slowly and cautiously, seeking to control the ball and to work it in for shots at close range. However, in the second game, against a zone defense, we used a fast-break with a great deal of success. The final game was marked by a combination of the two styles of defense.

Our scoring from the tip-off was very heavy during the entire tournament. A conservative estimate would give a total of one-third of our field goals chalked up in



A. H. Seibert, Montana

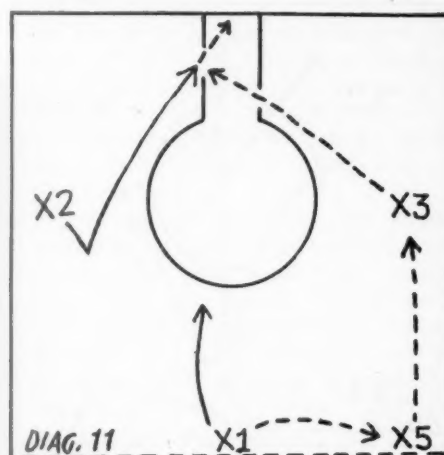
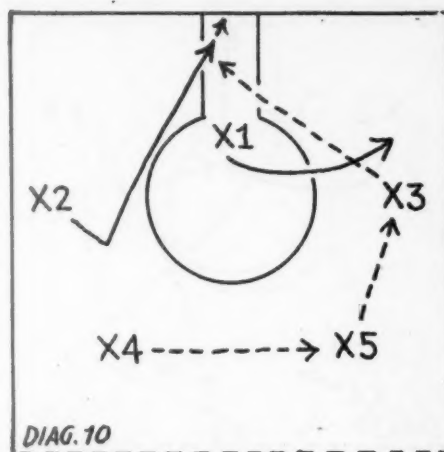
this manner, in spite of the fact that every team we played used defensive formations close to the center circle. Our center's ability to control the tip-off during most of the final game resulted in three quick baskets both at the start of the game and at the beginning of the second half. Our most effective tip-off play is illustrated in Diagram 11. The ball is tipped high and toward the outer lane to X5, who passes to X3. X2 feints toward the center and then cuts for the basket to take a pass from X3.

A number of very fine players participated in the state basketball tournament this year, and the all-state selections proved to be the most popular in years. The honor team included two men from Chisholm, one from Cass Lake, one from Mankato and one from Saint Paul Mechanic Arts.

## Montana

By A. H. Seibert  
Anaconda High School

THE basketball championship in Montana high schools this past season was



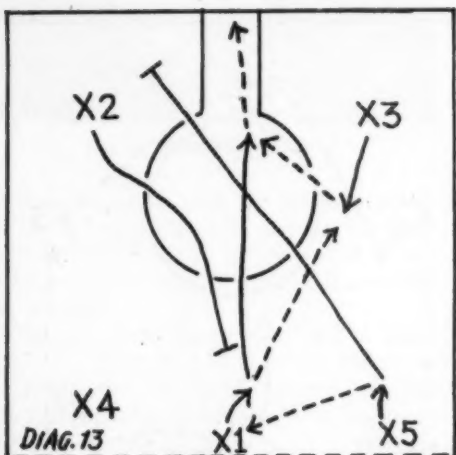
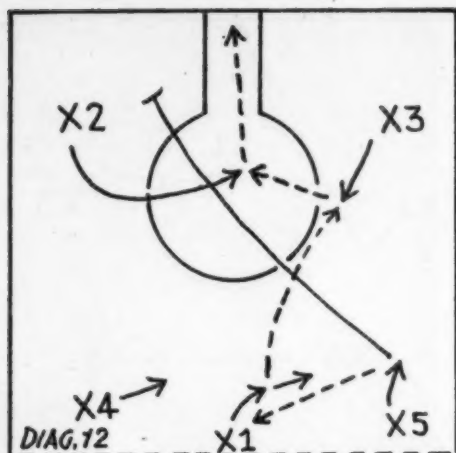
determined by an elimination tournament without consideration of the regular season's play. The division of the schools into two classes according to enrollment placed the sixteen largest in Class A and the remaining schools in Class B.

Two divisional tournaments participated in by eight Class A and eight Class B teams playing single elimination and consolation series independent of each other determined four winners—two in Class A and two in Class B—to meet in a round-robin the following week-end for the state championship and also for the Class A and Class B titles.

The Anaconda High School team, by winning all games in the round-robin, unquestionably rated the state title; but a three way tie could very easily have occurred, which is the only current objection to the plan used.

The offenses used varied from the slow, deliberate type of play to the West Rocky Mountain Conference style of ultra fast-break basketball. The defenses were just as varied, presenting zone, "chain" and strictly man-for-man.

We were fortunate this year in that we had on our squad eight men who could shoot. We tried to employ a change of pace, using a slow-break until the opposition was able to meet us defensively, then opening up with a fast, hit-and-miss style for a lead, after which we played a front court delayed game.



Our chief strength defensively as well as offensively was in possession of the ball. Our men passed careful and maintained a fairly good shooting average: the team's average for the season of thirty-one games was slightly over 30 per cent on shots from the field and 55 per cent on free throws.

For the slow-break we used two sets of screen plays, starting one set from a three-in and two-out formation, and the other from three-out and two-in; the defense of the opponent determining the style used.

On the fast-break, the man recovering the ball off the opponent's board was supposed to start for his own basket. The team used three fast passes for a figure 8 the length of the floor.

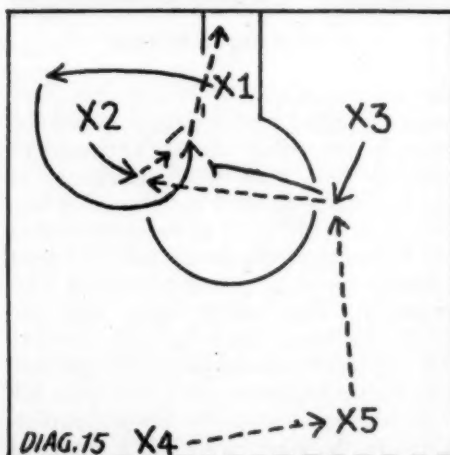
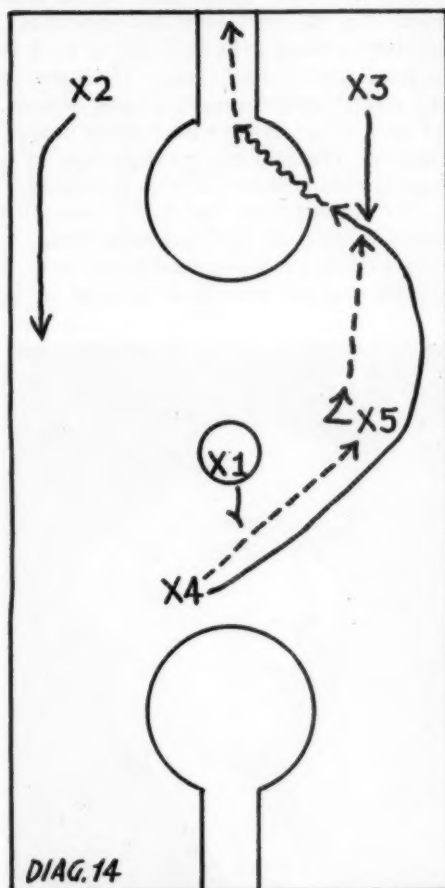
Out-of-bounds plays used depended upon whether or not the defense was sucked out. These plays might be either guard shots from the pivot position or shots by forwards out in the corners.

Tip-off plays were practiced occasionally, but in the major games our center did not get the tip consistently; so we "funneled" for the ball.

On defense we used a strict man-for-man, the opponents being picked at the beginning of the game according to position. Ordinarily, the guards and forwards changed men at the half, more particularly the guards, who often got loose for two or three baskets before the opposition sensed the switch.

The greatest difference between our de-

fense and that of the other teams we played was that we checked the men with the ball in their own back court and forced the play all the way. Through this procedure we got the ball on the ten-second rule occasionally and at times caused the other teams to hurry their play to such an



extent that they would lose the ball to us by chance passing or out of bounds.

The plays shown in the diagrams presented here are intended to keep the pivot post position open to break into; rather than send X1, ordinarily the center, into the free throw circle, we place him out in front. Quick passes are necessary and long shots by guards or center will make these plays work.

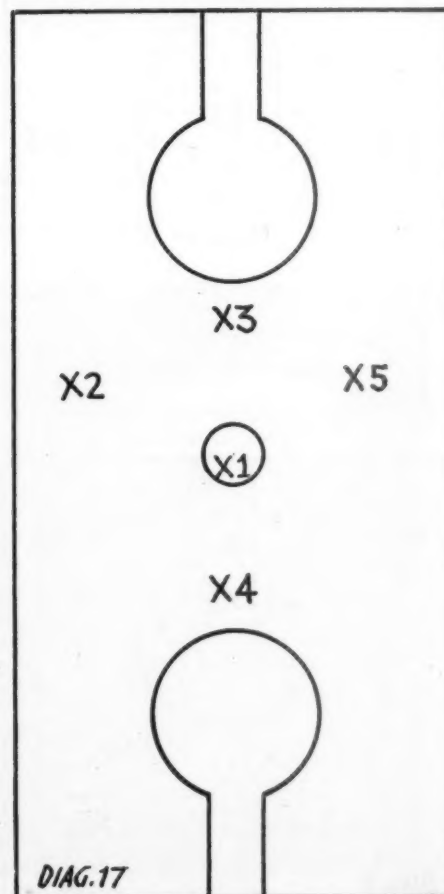
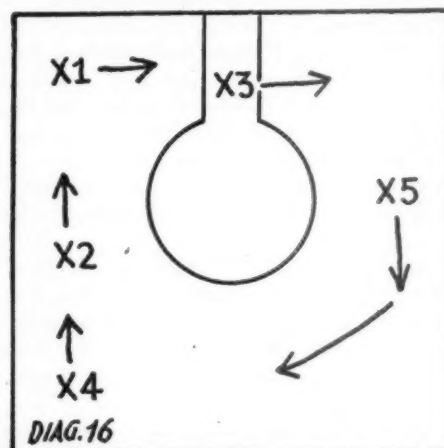
In Diagram 12, X5 dribbles the ball into

the front court. He fakes to X3 and passes to X1; X1 fakes a return pass to X5, who is cutting, and bounce passes to X3 breaking out; X5 screens X2's guard as forward X2 cuts around into the hole to receive the ball from X3 for a shot. X4 and X1 slide to the right for defense.

In Diagram 13, X5 dribbles the ball into the front court and starts the play the same as in Diagram 12. After X3 gets the ball, X2 comes out to screen X1's guard. X1 breaks into the hole to receive the ball from X3 for a short shot.

In Diagram 14, X4 starts the play with a hard pass to X5, who fakes to X1 but passes to X3, breaking out; X3 hands the ball to X4, who has cut for the basket and who dribbles on in for a set-up shot. X1, X3 and X5 screen for X4.

In Diagram 15, X4 passes to X5, and





X5 passes to X3, cutting out; at this time X1 and X2 switch positions so that X2 is just outside the hole. X3 passes to X2 and follows his pass, and X1 cuts around to take a pass from X2 and take a short shot. X2 and X3 screen for X1. This play works from either side. A straight cut and pass may also be used from this formation.

Diagram 16 illustrates the movements of the players in the delayed game.

Diagram 17 shows a tip-off formation. The ball may be tipped wide to X2 or X5, X3 fading to the corner on the side to which the ball goes; X5 or X2 cut, and X1 trails for a shot. The tip may also go to X3, X2 or X5 cutting for a shot. The tip may go back to X4 to start any regular screen play.

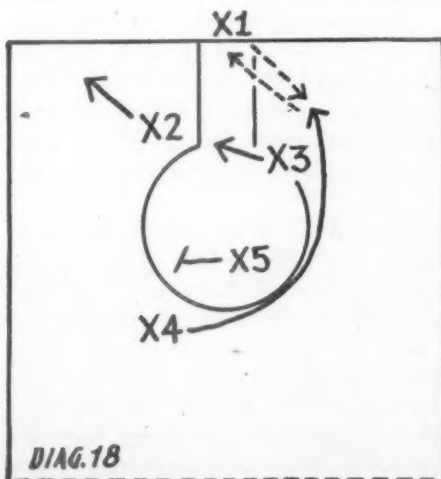
An out-of-bounds play is shown in Diagram 18. X5 screens X4's guard; X2 and X3 slide left; X4 comes around to receive the ball and take a shot. On side line out-of-bounds plays, the men may pass the ball to the back court and work regular screen plays, as well as an occasional sleeper play under the basket by X1.

Diagram 19 shows a fast-break play. X4 takes the ball off the opposite board and passes hard to X5, who passes hard to X2. X1 and X3 both cut and call for the ball; X2 fakes to them and passes high and hard to X4, who has cut fast for the basket. X4 shoots. The play may be started by X5 on the other side of the floor.

## Nevada

By Procter R. Hug  
Sparks High School

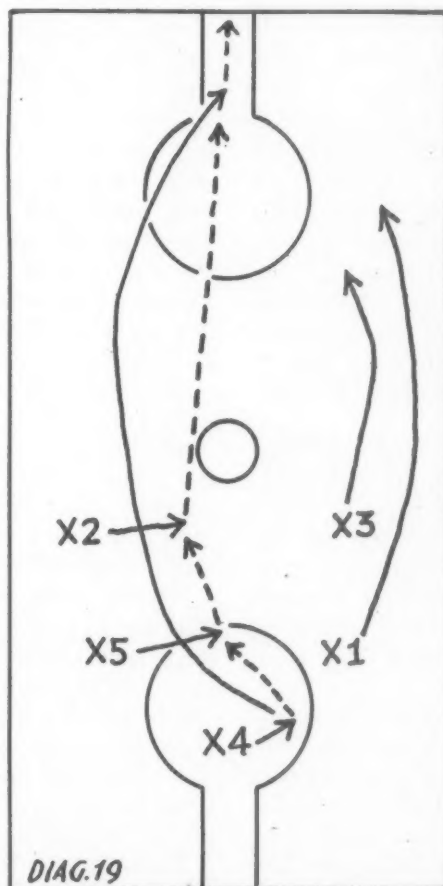
SPARKS HIGH SCHOOL won the state basketball championship of Nevada in a four team tournament held in the University of Nevada Gymnasium at Reno, defeating Panaca in the semifinals, 29 to 28, and Winnemucca in the finals, 38 to 17. Panaca won the consolation game from Yerington, 39 to 17. The state had previously been divided into three districts in which district tournaments were held. Panaca won in the south, Winnemucca in the northeast and Sparks in the west. Since the western district was the largest and took in more schools, it was agreed



that both the winner and the runner-up in this district should meet with the other two winners in the state tournament. Yerington was the runner-up in the western district.

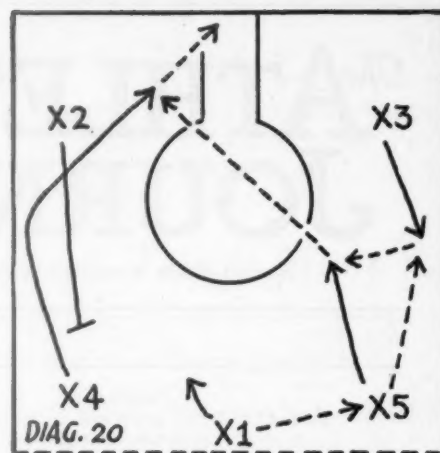
Practically all of the teams in the state this year used a man-to-man style of defense with a fast-breaking offense. A few teams used a shifting zone defense effectively on small courts during the season and in the district tournaments, but the teams meeting in the final tournament used the man-to-man type. Yerington, however, switched to a zone defense in the consolation game against Panaca and for the first half it was effective. Panaca started its plays working in the second half and won handily.

Three years ago most of the teams in



the state were using various types of zone defenses with slow and deliberate offenses, depending on set floor plays and long shots. Scores were always relatively low, and the games were much slower from the spectator's point of view. Each year since, more and more teams have gone over to the faster type of game with the result that almost all teams in the state use this type now. No doubt the ten-second rule has had considerable to do with bringing about this change. Incidentally, the ten-second rule was seldom violated because all teams brought the ball down fast.

Few teams used many set floor plays, and very few screening plays were in evidence. One team used a pivot man on



the free throw line and worked plays from him. By crowding the offense far down the floor this type of play was made ineffective. Most teams relied on a fast-break after recovering the ball and allowed the players freedom in making their own play situations.

In the state tournament, the Panaca-Sparks game was the closest and most exciting. Both teams used about the same type of game, man-to-man and fast-break. Panaca jumped into an early lead and was ahead, 14 to 2, at the end of the first five minutes. Sparks rallied at this point and began to make a steady gain, finally going into the lead late in the last quarter.

Sparks used a man-to-man defense, picking up the offensive men at the center line. Our team was fortunate in having two exceptionally fast forwards, who broke fast, and a tall guard, able to get rebounds and whip the ball out fast. This tall guard jumped at center and then switched to a guard position. His center floor position was filled by a smaller but faster man who was a very good floor player and a "crack" shot. This switch in positions sometimes was confusing to opponents. The confusion was helped along, too, by substituting another center who actually played the center floor position while the other man dropped back to guard. On each switch, some player was usually left open until a couple of baskets were made.

We employed but few set plays, as we found they slowed down the offense. The pass and cut plays involving two or three men were the principal ones we used. Diagram 20 illustrates a sample play used against a man-to-man defense. The play starts with the ball in possession of X1, who passes to X5. X5 passes to X3, and X3 returns the ball to X5, cutting toward the basket. X2 cuts up the floor fast to screen the guard of X4. X4 cuts down the floor and in to receive a pass from X5. X4 takes a short shot.

Against a tight man-to-man defense, the play of Diagram 21 was used. The play starts with the ball in possession of X4, who dribbles to the right. X2 starts up the floor at this instant. X4 stops, pivots

(Continued on page 22)

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JOHN L. GRIFFITH, Editor

## Where We Stand

FOR fourteen years the editor of this magazine has been attempting to enunciate his philosophy of life and his philosophy of athletics. Every man whose opinions do not change with every wind that blows has a philosophy of life. It may not make any difference to others what my philosophy may be, but it matters a lot so far as I myself am concerned. Therefore, not with the idea of forcing my opinions, beliefs and creed on others, but rather so that it may be made entirely clear where I stand, this is being written.

Before going any further, let it be admitted that it is not generally expedient for any man who holds or wants to hold a public office of any kind to stand four-square on any principle. The trimmer and the demagogue invariably succeed by straddling issues. I do not want to hold any public office and I would rather be a free man, free to do my own thinking and free to live my own life, than to follow expedient and popular practices.

Some men who know what I stand for have attempted to ridicule my philosophy. They have not stated their beliefs but they have written articles which have a double meaning. They talk about educational athletics without making clear what they mean by educational athletics. They have also implied that I do not believe in educational athletics. I *do* believe in educational athletics and I am going to state my concept of educational athletics. I trust that they will have the courage to define their understanding of these terms. I have searched in vain so far for a statement of what it is that these men believe in.

They have made it clear that they do not believe in championships in athletics; that is, they are against the principle of championships. They do not practice what they preach, but, be that as it may, let us assume that they feel that it is wrong to give the superior athlete a chance to go as far as possible in proving where superiority rests. Of course, they do not come right out and admit that they believe mediocrity is more to be desired than superiority; they just imply that that is what they mean.

They apparently believe that educational values in athletics can better be conserved and attained in games played in a small stadium than in games played in a huge stadium. They are afraid of big things. The sight of a big stadium or a huge crowd frightens them. Primitive peoples were sometimes afraid of the mountains and the sea because of the bigness of these natural features. Little men are afraid of big corporations, big railroads, big banks and big universities.

These people lead me to believe they think that honesty inheres in small institutions and dishonesty in big institutions. The successful business man is always a crook; the unsuccessful man is poor but honest. The creditor class is made up solely of those who succeeded by climbing over the broken bodies and the bent backs of the debtors. Here we have the implications of their oft repeated enigmatical statements.

These people who do not like my philosophy of athletics shrink from the thought of the hard grueling practice that is part of the training of a football player. This is especially true of the critics and administrators whose experience in the fighting games has been gained from the side lines. They talk about the joy of effort and say never a word about the joy of achievement. It is easy to read into the writings of these people that they believe education can best serve the interests of the greatest number by a leveling down process. The Russian Bolsheviks in the early days of the revolution killed the successful industrialists, bankers and teachers; they exiled the Kulaks (that is, the farmers who had more than two cows) to Siberia. Thus, the Russians by leveling down society gave the unsuccessful a chance. The athletic and physical education socialists would try the same plan in the field of school and college athletics.

These same people, believing as they do in the efficacy of legislation as a means of improving human nature and as a short cut to the millennium, practice coercion. The idea that people are the servants of the state is as old as civilization. Since they subscribe to this general philosophy, they believe that the autocrats should order other people's lives for them and that if anyone objects he is guilty of *lese majesty*.

In the beginning of this article it was stated that I believe in educational athletics. By educational athletics I mean an educational process in athletics that helps to teach a boy to stand on his own feet, to depend on himself and to fight his own battles. Athletics help to develop a type of rugged character and to implant in the players an appreciation of the fact that the individual is chiefly responsible for his own success or failure.

Prosperity makes men soft. When weaklings are hurt they cry to others for help. The strong man takes his lickings and if knocked down gets up and fights all the harder. With the era of prosperity there developed a cult of weakness. Every man who was willing to work at all had more than enough money with which to supply his wants. Many men became soft. The athletes, however, did not become soft. They had learned in their athletics that they



could "take it." This is an educational lesson that is of value. It may not have anything to do with the study of the dinosaurs or the mastery of Greek verbs, but it is educational just the same.

I believe in championships; that is, I believe that the superior athlete should be given unlimited opportunity to contest with others of like ability, character and stamina. I still believe that superiority is better than mediocrity or inferiority.

I believe that the boy who plays in a big stadium before a crowd can gain educational experience just as well as can the boy who plays a loosely organized game of baseball in the back pasture.

I do not subscribe to the idea that success can be attained only by chicanery. I do not point the finger of suspicion at every athlete who has won fame or at every university that has maintained a successful football team. Honesty, integrity and probity of character are not qualities that are monopolized by the ne'er-do-well.

I believe that there is a certain amount of educational experience to be gained through hard and painstaking toil and drudgery in athletics as in everything else. The boy who learns on the athletic field to do difficult things that test his moral courage gains an educational experience of a kind that has proved invaluable to others who have made good in athletics, as is witnessed by their own testimony, and that should prove of value to the present generation of athletes. I believe that the inferior athlete should be encouraged to approximate the performance of the superior athlete; in other words, I believe in a leveling up process of education. This is the theory that is applied in other educational departments and activities, and I see no reason why we should deviate from it in athletics.

The superior student in high school is listed as an honor student, or perhaps he gains membership in the honor society. The way is made easy for him to enter the different colleges and universities. On the other hand, it is difficult for the inferior student to gain admission to the institutions of higher learning. No teacher worthy the name of teacher would attempt to limit the opportunities of the superior student in gaining the heights that it is possible for him to attain in the intellectual field. I believe that athletes who learn by precept and example in their playing experience to control unsocial tendencies and to develop social tendencies have gained a rich educational experience. I do not believe that men for the most part can be made good by legislation. When human nature has been improved it has been by the slow, painful and tedious process of education and religion. Men cannot be made honest by congressional edict, and boys will not learn sportsmanship by administrative ukase.

I believe that it is part of a boy's education to learn to play the game according to the rules, to abide by the decision of the officials and to respect both the rules and the officials. Such a boy does not whine, complain and alibi when he loses. He realizes that the school or the college gives him the opportunity and that then it is up to him to do the rest. He does not expect life to be made easy, safe or fool-proof, and neither does he expect to be personally

conducted through life, all the risks taken by someone else.

In conclusion, let me say that athletics stand for rugged individualism. The coaches and the boys who are playing the games are not softies. One of the reasons why they are not is that they have learned in their athletics that the right way is usually the hard way.—*John L. Griffith.*

## **The N. C. A. A. Track Meet**

THE Thirteenth Annual National Collegiate Athletic Association Track and Field Meet will be held this year in Los Angeles, California, on June 22nd and 23rd. There is no doubt that this meet will be one of the best, if not the best, college track and field meets ever held in the United States.

The people of Los Angeles demonstrated at the time the Olympic Games were held in the Los Angeles Coliseum that the people of California are track conscious. Some cities are known as good baseball centers, others as prize fight or wrestling centers and a few are recognized as cities where track and field athletics are popular.

For one thing the newspapers in California devote a good deal of space to track and field athletics each year. Where the newspapers devote the major part of their sport pages to professional athletics it is usually true that amateur athletics, especially track and field, are not popular with the masses. Several of the largest California newspapers devote their sports pages largely to amateur athletics.

The Los Angeles men who promoted the Olympic Games so successfully demonstrated not only that they and the other Los Angeles people were splendid hosts but also that they knew how to manage and promote the Games. The track in the Los Angeles Stadium is one of the fastest tracks in the world, and the college men who will compete in the N. C. A. A. Meet may be assured that no detail will be overlooked in making records possible and in providing for the care and comfort of the competitors.

Des Moines with its Drake Relays and Philadelphia with its Penn Relays support track and field in splendid fashion. So do New York City and Lincoln, Nebraska.

There are other track and field centers which have not been named. The point of naming any of these cities is to call attention to the fact that track and field athletics flourish in some places and are not appreciated in others. If track and field can be conducted successfully in California and Des Moines, Philadelphia, New York and other places, there is no reason why this sport cannot also be conducted successfully in other cities.

Track and field athletics provide practically every type of athlete an opportunity to compete in an event that is to his liking. They put a high premium on individual initiative. They call for discipline of the body as well as discipline of the will. We cannot build up interest in track and field by attempting to make football and basketball uninteresting, but all who believe in one of the finest amateur sports of America should earnestly strive to place track and field in the position that this sport deserves.

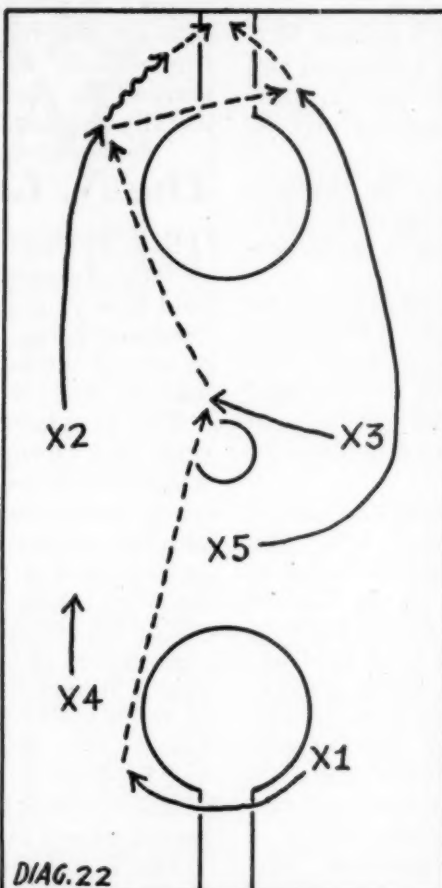
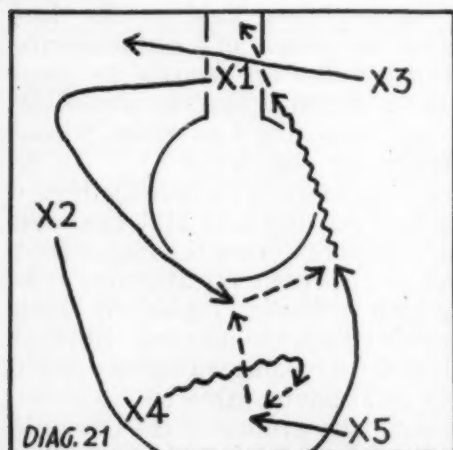


# State Championship Basketball

(Continued from page 19)

to the right and passes to X5. X1, who has swung to the corner, comes out toward center fast to take a pass from X5. X3 draws his guard out of the play territory while X2 swings around fast to take a pass from X1 and dribble in for a shot.

Diagram 22 illustrates a fast-break play used effectively. X1 takes the ball off the backboard and passes to X3. The type of pass depends upon the position X1 is in when getting the ball. If X3 is covered, the pass may go to X2, X4 or X5, who starts the ball down the floor by a dribble. X2 takes the pass from X3 and either dribbles in for a shot or passes to X5, as diagramed.



little consideration for the title because of losses to Fargo and Grand Forks on foreign courts.

Three of the eight teams used a shifting zone defense, two of them a 2-1-2 formation and the third a 3-2 formation. Four teams used the assigned man-for-man, and the eighth used either a 2-1-2 zone or man-for-man style. The fast-break was used to advantage by Jamestown and Fargo. Fargo's fast-break was very good considering the fact that it broke from a man-for-man defense. Practically all of the teams brought the ball up fast, but if a good scoring opportunity did not present itself they deployed into set formations. Three of the teams used an offense with a pivot man at or near the free throw line. Minot used an offense with two pivot men near the basket and three men in the front line. The other teams used a set-up with two men in the corners, a third on the side and the two guards out in front. All of these offenses were varied against a zone defense.

Minot's success was due largely to the following factors:

(1) A strong defense. Not more than two baskets per game were scored by any one player of the opposition during the tournament, and in the games against Bismarck and Fargo no opposing player scored more than one field goal. In the



Procter R. Hug, Nevada

## North Dakota

By H. L. Robertson  
Senior High School, Minot

THE North Dakota Class A Basketball Tournament was held at Bismarck, March 16th and 17th. It proved to be the most successful tournament ever held in the state from the standpoint of financial returns, general interest and close play.

This was the second tournament since the state has been divided into A and B classes. All of the eight competing teams were from Class A schools, Mandan, Bismarck and Fargo having turned back challengers from Class B in preliminary games. The success of this tournament was another evidence of the universal approval in this state of the A and B division in tournament play.

There were four standout teams in the tournament that were evenly matched, while any of the other four were capable of scoring an upset if given the breaks. This was proved by the fact that Mandan, after a very mediocre season, advanced to the semifinals and played a close game with Jamestown. Fargo was the "paper" favorite because of its record of no defeats against North Dakota teams. Grand Forks had a strong team of veterans. They lost a first round engagement to the strong Jamestown team in one of the most unusual games ever played in a North Dakota tournament. Grand Forks piled up a lead of 16 to 7 in the first half. Jamestown came back in the second half, switched from its usual zone to a man-for-man defense and finally won the game by three points.

Minot, with three members of last year's team, entered the tournament with a seasonal record of seventeen victories out of nineteen games. The team was given very



H. L. Robertson, North Dakota

three games the opposition was held to a total of 15 field goals and an average of a fraction more than 15 points per game.

(2) Good ball handling. All five players were adept passers and were capable of maintaining possession of the ball a majority of the time.

(3) An evenly balanced team. Every one of the five men used at any one time was a good shot, and this, coupled with



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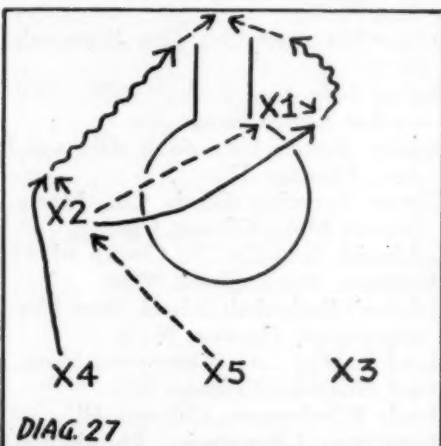
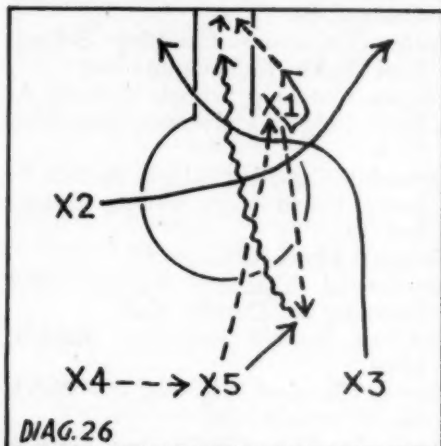
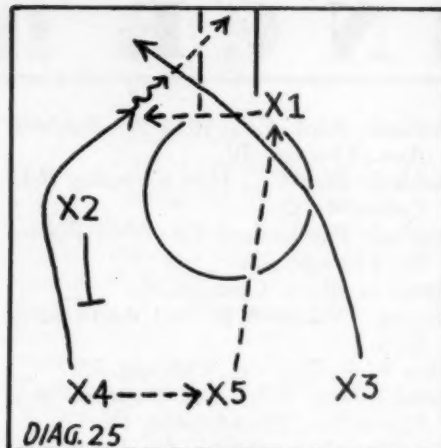
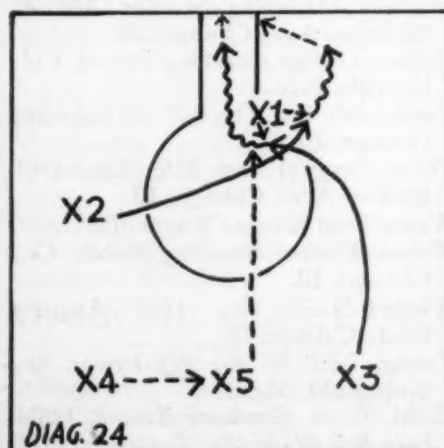
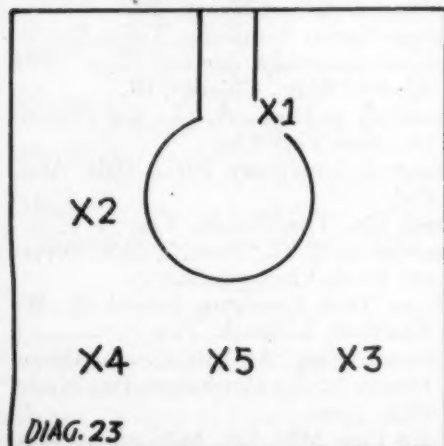
good ball handling, made them especially effective against a zone defense.

(4) Excellent competitive spirit and good physical condition. These factors told heavily in the final game, especially when Jamestown was in the lead with only three minutes of the final game remaining.

The Minot team averaged just under 6 feet. The center was 6 feet 2 inches tall, the forwards 6 feet and 5 feet 11 inches, and the guards 5 feet 11 inches and 5 feet 10 inches.

Against a man-for-man defense, the offensive set-up was as shown in Diagram 23. X1, a tall center, was a good pivot man and good on a turn shot or short drive into the basket, going either way. X2 was a tall forward. He was a good pivot man and a good one-handed shot from around the free throw line. X1 and X2 exchanged positions at various times. X3, a fast left-handed forward, was good at cutting in to the basket. He was also a good shot from out on the court. X4, a guard, was good at cutting for the basket and scoring at short range. X5 was really the key man, an excellent ball handler.

From this set-up, certain plays were developed, all of them with several options, the one used depending on the tactics of the opponents and the position of the ball. Diagram 24 illustrates two of these optional plays or developments. After advancing the ball across the center line, the three men in front pass the ball rapidly back and forth while all five men, especially the two pivoters, maneuver for posi-



tion. When the ball is passed in to X1, he has several options.

The first option, shown in Diagram 24, is a pass from X1 to X3 as the latter cuts by on either side to receive the ball, dribble in and take a short shot. The second option is a fake by X1 to X3, cutting past, and a pass to X2, also cutting past, for a shot at close range.

Diagram 25 shows the third option from the set-up described in Diagram 23. X1 fakes a pass to X3, who is driving in. X4 cuts past X2, who screens for him. X1 passes to X4 for a drive in to the basket and a short shot.

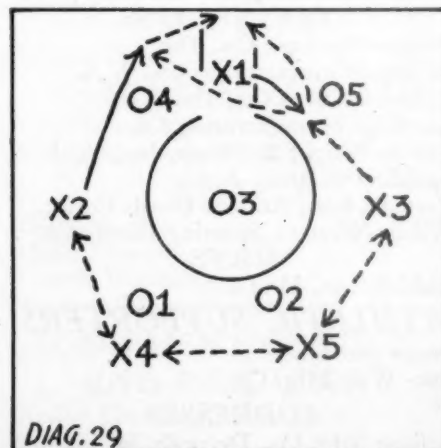
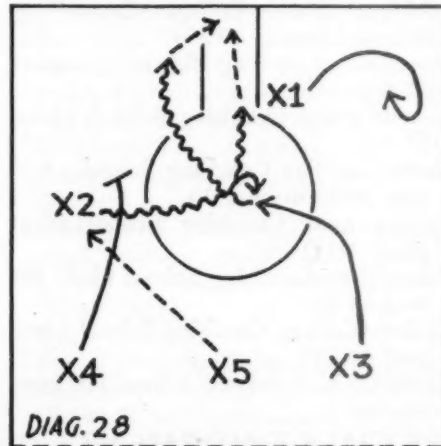
Diagram 26 shows options four and five from the Diagram 23 set-up. X2 and X3 cross in front of X1. In the fourth option, X1 fakes a pass to X3, and sometimes to

X2, and then turns and shoots. In option five, X1 after faking to X3 and X2, passes out to X5, who may drive in for a shot or play the ball back until the offense is again set.

In Diagrams 27 and 28, the play starts with the pass going to X2 instead of X1. Two options are presented in Diagram 27. In the first option, X2 feeds the ball to X4, cutting by for a dribble-in shot. In the second option, X2 fakes to X4, hook passes to X1, and cuts by for a return pass and shot. A third option, illustrated in Diagram 28, begins when X4 cuts inside of X2 and screens X2's guard. X2 dribbles toward the center of the free throw circle, goes as far as possible and then shoots. X5 also may cut inside X2 to screen for him. In the fourth option, likewise illustrated in Diagram 28, X4 screens in the same manner as before; X2 dribbles toward the middle of the free throw circle, establishes a pivot point there and feeds the ball to X3, cutting across toward the end line.

Definite set plays were used occasionally after a break in the game, such as a time out, had occurred. The plays diagrammed are the principal ones developing from the two pivoters. All three front line men were drilled extensively on deception in passing to their pivoters. They learned to pass away from the guard and take advantage of a defensive man who overplayed on one side or the other. A crisscross was used occasionally in the front line, with a pass going in to a pivot man at any time.

It was found that many of the best scor-





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ing chances came after shuttling the ball back and forth to pivot men and out to the front line, the breaks for the basket coming later.

The set-up used against a 2-1-2 zone defense is shown in Diagram 29. After the ball has been advanced to the front line of defense, it is passed rapidly back and forth between X4 and X5, X5 and X3, or X4 and X2 to keep the defense shifting. When X3 receives the ball, X1 breaks a few feet to the side and at an angle from the basket to receive a pass and take a shot, or to pass to X2 cutting in on the side. X3 has the option of (1) faking a pass to X5 or X1 and taking a set shot, after which X1 and X2 follow hard; or of (2) dribbling fast toward the free throw line, if possible taking a one-handed shot or, if not, passing to X1 for a shot or pass to X2. When X2 receives the ball on his side, he has possible the same plays as X3. If the defensive guards, O4 and O5, spread too far, a hard pass may be thrown down the center to X1 for a shot. If O1 and O2 back up too far, X4 or X5 may shoot. Once in a while X4 or X5 may fake a pass and drive in toward the free throw line for a shot.

The assigned man-for-man defense was used by the Minot team. Each man stayed with his own opponent unless a screen play or fast-break made a switch necessary. In case of a switch, each man stayed with his new opponent until a good opportunity came to change back. Against a man-in-the-hole offense, the forwards shuttled back and forth to help cover the pivot man, and one guard played his forward loose, looking for an opportunity to intercept the pass to the pivot.

## Oklahoma

By Harold T. Miller

Classen High School, Oklahoma City

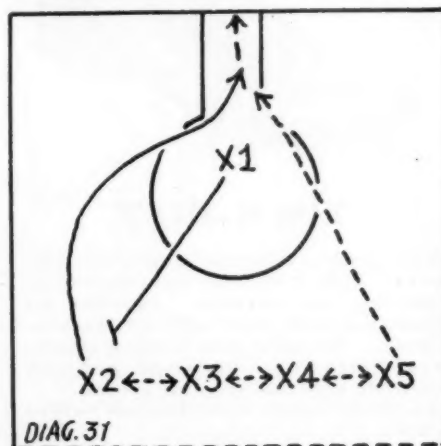
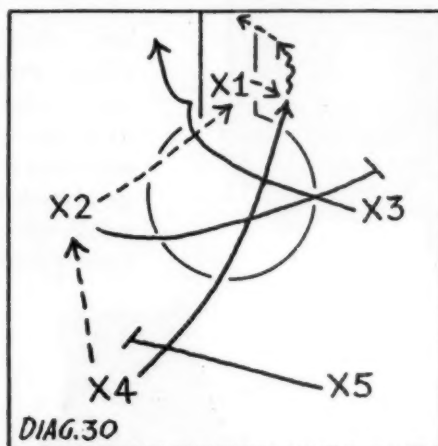
THE 1934 Oklahoma State Basketball Tournament was held this year during the month of March, under the auspices of the Oklahoma State High School Athletic Association. The state was divided into thirty-two geographical districts and play in Class A and Class B was begun. Winners in each district met with winners of another district where a bi-district tournament was held and the two classes were consolidated into one. Winners of these tournaments then went to Oklahoma City for the annual state meet. In only a few cases were Class A teams eliminated by the Class B teams.

Looking back at the tournament, I am convinced that better teams were there this year than in the past three or four years. Every variety of play was in evidence. One might have seen everything from the fast-breaking offense to the short pass and screening system. My own team used a combination of both, which I will explain later. The man-to-man system of defense was used by all the teams.

We first defeated Ardmore High School,



Harold T. Miller, Oklahoma



later winner of the consolation trophy, 55 to 12. We defeated Eastview, 27 to 18, in the second round. This was one of the Class B teams which had reached the state tournament by defeating the Class A team in its bi-district meet. In the third round, Muskogee was defeated, 27 to 18. This team had previously eliminated Tulsa High School, which had been touted to meet us in the finals. The final game, against Blackwell High School, was closer than the score might indicate, ending, 34 to 23, in favor of Classen.

At the close of the meet, three of the Classen players were placed on the all-state team and a fourth would have received the same distinction had not a leg injury kept him out of our last six games. He had previously been included in the all-city and all-conference selections.

And now for something about the Classen High School team! At the beginning of the season we had what any coach would call, at best, only mediocre material. There was one tall boy, 6 feet 7 inches, who had had some previous experience in the northern part of the state. All of the other candidates, which included only two lettermen, were about 5 feet 10 inches tall. However, all of them were smart boys, willing to work and ambitious to succeed. I might add that none of them were football players and we consequently had the advantage of starting practice earlier than many schools.

We adopted a few set rules of training as soon as we organized, the most important of which was a forty-five minute practice each day on nothing but passing and fundamental drills on pivoting, double passing, switching men and screening. I early realized that with our small players (two averaged less than 128 pounds) it would be necessary for the boys to attain speed, accuracy and self-confidence before we could attempt to compete with the larger teams in our conferences. Of course, we were assured of the center tip because of the height of our center.

By the opening of the season we had almost mastered the fast-breaking offensive system, which we used throughout the season. My forwards and center would break through, and, if they could not get a short shot, would pivot and pass the ball back to a guard, and another series of fast-breaks and passes would be started. My guards were clever ball handlers who were able to make and receive sharp passes. After every pass the passer would break free so that he would be in the open to receive the ball again and pass to another player or take the shot.

We used the man-to-man defense throughout and had assigned players for the boys to guard before the game started. They would stay with their men throughout the game unless they were screened out. In the latter case, the man screened out would switch to the player driving by, stay with him until our team again gained possession of the ball and then transfer back to his regular man.

Explained below are two plays which we found useful during the season.

In Diagram 30, a guard, X4, has the ball and passes it to a forward, X2, who in turn passes it to the center, X1, as he steps toward the free throw line. As X2 passes, he cuts fast past X1 and screens X3's guard. X3 breaks fast past X1. X1 fakes to X3. As X3 starts past X1, who has the ball, X5 moves over and frees X4, who drives in and takes a pass from X1.

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In case X1's guard slides over to take X4, X4 passes to X3, who is under the basket. X1 has many options. He may pass to X2 or X3 or X5, or he may pivot and shoot.

In Diagram 31, four men, X2, X3, X4 and X5, are back with the ball two or three feet inside the center line. They crisscross, passing the ball, protecting it well and moving it fast. The fifth man, X1, plays deep. Suddenly X2 stops, and X1 rushes up and picks off X2's man. X2 then cuts for the basket and receives a high pass from X5. This maneuver is kept up, the men alternating as X5 screens for X4, X4 for X3, and so on. Each man is drilled on the player he screens for. We have used this maneuver very successfully.

## Oregon

By John A. Warren  
Astoria High School

REGARDLESS of the magnitude of any sports event or series of events, one factor will usually stand out above all others. In my estimation the outstanding feature of the 1934 Oregon State High School Basketball Tournament held at Willamette University, Salem, was the high caliber of the coaching as displayed by the performances of the sixteen teams competing in the four day cage festival.

While Astoria High School repeated its state championship performance for the third time in six years, using a man-to-man order of defense, the teams of the tournament were divided into two distinct defensive groups; namely, man-to-man and shifting zone. The Dallas High School and Klamath Falls High School, both outstanding contenders in this year's race, for the major part of their games used the shifting zone defense to carry them deep into the brackets.

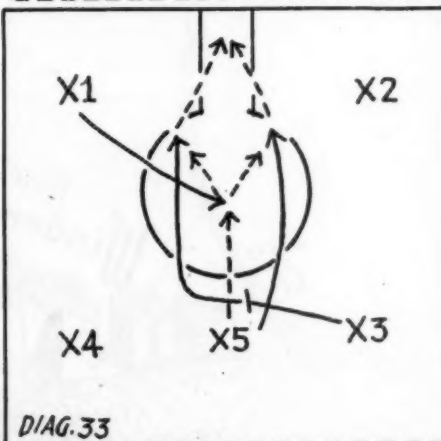
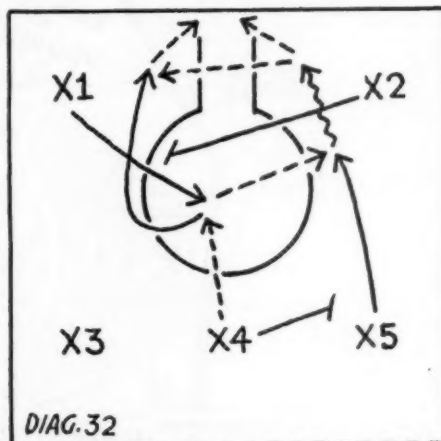
The future life of the game, as everyone knows, depends on the support it receives. While the coach must be guided by the team's potential winning strength, pleasing the crowd enters the plan as an important factor. After considering both the team and the crowd, I selected a fast-breaking system of offense.

When the team receives the ball in the back court, I like to see all five men start moving toward the basket, with the two forwards getting into the scoring territory immediately. If this fast advancing play fails to break a man clear for scoring, I bring three men out and leave two in the corners. From this position I use a system of six screen plays. Above all, I demand that my teams be aggressive at all times in gaining possession of the ball, and, after securing it, drive it in toward the basket.

In the play shown in Diagram 32, X4 passes to X1, who has broken toward the free throw line. X2 moves over to screen for X1. After passing, X4 goes over to screen for X5, who goes in toward the basket, receiving the ball from X1. After passing, X1 reverses, so that he may take



John A. Warren, Oregon



the ball from X5 if the latter is closely guarded. X5, then, has the option of shooting or of passing to X1.

Diagram 33 illustrates another Astoria play. X3 moves over to screen for X5. X5 passes to X1 at the free throw line and then breaks in toward the basket. After screening, X3 goes in toward the basket on the side opposite X5. X1 may pass to either X5 or X3.

I have adopted the man-to-man check as the easiest way to determine whether or not our men are playing ball. I believe

this is the best way to stop the oncoming offense. While some coaches discredit this style of defense on the basis of its being easy to work on with screen plays, I feel that, if the players will talk and play ball, they may keep out of the screen or, when caught, they may pivot and cover up before the opposing player has reached the basket. When necessary, defensive players may change men temporarily.

When my teams run up against a screening offense, the man-to-man defense is quickly adapted to checking in the back court, which I figure stops this attack 90 per cent of the time. In other words, if the opponents cannot get into position to start their screens, it is impossible for them to score by this method.

## Pennsylvania

By Grover C. Washabaugh  
South High School, Pittsburgh

THE Pennsylvania State Basketball Tournament was most interesting this year, and basketball proved as popular as ever.

It was gratifying to South High School of Pittsburgh to win the crown. South High made a bid for the championship last year but was defeated by Altoona High School in the final western regional game. Altoona, in turn, lost to Lower Merion High School in the state final at Philadelphia.

This year, however, South High was more fortunate, and the honor came to a Pittsburgh school for the first time since the practice of declaring basketball champions was inaugurated in this state.

Of the fourteen players and two managers who comprised the South High squad, all were "first generation Americans." Of these, thirteen were Polish, two were Serbians and one was Lithuanian. These boys made up a very capable group of players who were unusually clean in their habits and, above all, had a determination to play the game to the best of their ability.

Our team this year was well-grounded in fundamentals and had been under enough fire in previous games to supply that much needed confidence which causes a player to go through fundamental skills with the least amount of effort and lost motion. One drill which developed certain fundamentals was given by arranging the boys in two lines on opposite sides of the floor facing each other and supplying each two boys with an eight to twelve pound medicine ball, the ball to be passed back and forth for ten minutes with no arch—just a push pass chest high. This proved to be one of the best finger and forearm developers we could find, and, had you seen the manner in which our boys handled and passed a basketball, you might readily agree that the drill above mentioned did just the thing desired. Another drill, not unusual, but religiously conducted, was our free throw shooting practice. Each boy, in





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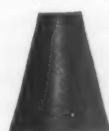


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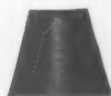


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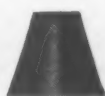
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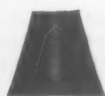
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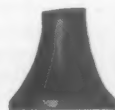
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addition to shooting free throws at vari-  
ous times during practice, was required to  
take twenty-five supervised shots each  
day. These were recorded from day to  
day and the records caused considerable  
interest in the shooting. The significance,  
however, was that two of our boys were  
able to score better than 82 per cent of  
their free throw chances in twenty-six  
games, and none on the squad fell below  
65 per cent.

Our team was well balanced for size and  
speed. We had a center over 6 feet tall,  
one guard about 6 feet, the other guard



Grover C. Washabaugh, Pennsylvania

about 5 feet 10 inches, and two small for-  
wards, only about 5 feet 8 inches tall. In  
this combination we had a left-handed for-  
ward who was unusually shifty, fast, an  
excellent dribbler and a splendid left-  
handed shot. The other regular forward  
was well suited to fast team play and he  
was a remarkable scorer. The center  
established a great record by scoring 164  
points in twelve city league games, doing  
equally well in all others and scoring 23  
points in the state championship game.  
One guard was not a scoring guard, but  
probably he was the best defensive boy  
in the state—good at keeping down the  
opponent's score, and the best boy I have  
ever coached at guarding a strong scoring  
player. The other guard was always sure  
of several field goals and gave plenty of  
help on the defensive end of the floor. The  
strength of our first five boys was due to  
the fact that the second five were just  
about equal to the occasion and stepped  
into many games showing even better form  
than the so-called regulars.

Our offense was of the five-man type  
until we brought the ball across the center  
line. Then it developed into a four-man  
style with the defensive guard letting no  
opponent get behind him. The main fea-  
ture of our offense was the shooting ability  
of four of the players. We enjoyed un-

usual success in the use of the pivot play, the center shooting or passing to forwards crossing over, or occasionally tipping back to a guard, who shot. We also employed set plays on jump balls, which scored many points for us throughout the season.

South High used a man-for-man defense, switching opponents as necessary occasions arose. The back guard took any opponent who might come down the floor ahead of his man. We never found it necessary to check our opponents in the back court but would take them slightly before they got into shooting range. We did not plan a defensive game at any time, but rather decided on having possession of the ball as much as possible. This worked out quite well even when we lost the ball. Our center was worked in defensive rebound territory until the ball was recovered; then he cut for the pivot position. With our defensive guard back, we could use the other four players for offensive tactics and offensive rebound play.

Including the tournament games of this season, South has a record of thirty-one consecutive league victories. In the tournament games, South played Somerset, Huntingdon, New Kensington and Reading. All these teams were representative of their districts and the schedules of New Kensington and Reading were extremely difficult. New Kensington was the winner in a western Pennsylvania league composed of 140 schools, while Reading was the master of the six districts comprising the eastern part of Pennsylvania.

The Somerset team had played good basketball all season, but the boys seemed unable to get started in the tournament and, while they scored 16 points, South was able to score 46, using each player on the squad for at least two quarters.

New Kensington had a quick-breaking offense and a shifting zone defense. The offense was designed to secure many short shots, and this enabled us to check the players before they worked the ball into shooting position.

Huntingdon had the biggest players we met all season. They seemed to depend upon a slow-breaking offense to advance the ball, and a zone defense to stop opposition. Their zone defense had worked well all year, but against these big boys our forwards had a better chance of faking the defense out of position for openings and shots.

Reading had one of the fastest and best scoring guards seen in scholastic basketball. Our forward who played against him the first half was kept quite busy preventing his scoring more than four goals and a couple of free throws. Our plan at half-time was to devise a method to stop a boy who almost single-handed had evened the score at 12 to 12 at the end of the first half. The method worked, and South High accounted for 13 points in the third period while Reading collected but 2 points. Again in the fourth quarter South

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scored 17 points, using the entire squad, while Reading connected for only 3 points.

The scores of the tournament games played by South were as follows:

South 46, Somerset 16; South 34, Huntingdon 10; South 39, New Kensington 26; South 42, Reading 17.

Attendance at all games indicated that interest is as keen as ever in this scholastic sport.

South High School is proud of the many additional friendships established during this year, and thankful to all who in any way contributed to the success of the season.

## Rhode Island

By R. B. Morris

Pawtucket High School

THE play-off system inaugurated two years ago to determine which team will carry the title of Rhode Island's state champion in basketball is very unique and will possibly interest some of the readers of this article. The competing schools are divided into two leagues, Class A and Class B. All schools with a high school enrollment of over two hundred students are placed in Class A. All schools with an enrollment of less than two hundred are placed in Class B. League schedules are played, and at the end of the schedule the winner of Class B and the first three teams in Class A are eligible to compete in the state championship play-offs. The winner of Class A and the winner of Class B play each other. Teams in second and third position in Class A play each other and the winner plays the winning team of the Class A and Class B tilt. The team winning this game is declared the state champion.

Pawtucket High School, after leading Class A league in the first two months of the league schedule, slumped badly and finished in a triple tie for third position. This necessitated a play-off to decide which of the three teams tied for third place would be eligible to compete in the play-offs. The state play-off dates had been set, and, in order to reach the state championship, the Pawtucket High School basketball team played four championship games in one week: Two games to decide third place in the league, the play-off game to go into the finals and the final game.

The team was composed of one veteran from the preceding year and four substitutes. The center was 6 feet 5 inches tall and was the only tall man on the team.

Both the zone and the man-to-man defense were used. The zone defense was set up on the 2-1-2 shifting style. From this defensive formation the team broke fast when possible and at other times used a slow offense with a series of screens. The center was dropped back to a guard position of the zone defense after the team had lost possession of the ball. His clearing of the backboard and his long passes

to the forward were some of the reasons for the team's success. The dual and single pivot systems were used with a series of screens that worked successfully at times and added variation to the attack. The fast-break from a clearance of the backboard or an interception was a three-man break down the floor with the middle man from the defensive position handling the ball and the two forwards cutting hard to the sides and ahead of the ball. The center usually controlled the tap at center; two formations were used, a modified Y and the 2-1-2 set-up. Every center play called for a screen, and many baskets were scored on these plays. Set plays were used from all jump and out-of-bounds balls.

East Providence, with a veteran team composed of small men, was one of the best teams in the state. Both the zone and assigned man-to-man defense were used by this team. The offense against a man-to-man defense was a short pass, pivot game with a driving rebound attack. Against a zone, East Providence placed two guards in front of the defense, two men close to each side line behind the front line and a floater under the basket. The ball was moved fast, and, when the defense either overshifted or was screened out, a shot was taken with three men driving hard for rebounds.

Rogers High School, while not so good offensively as in other seasons, had one of the best defensive teams seen in Rhode Island in years. This team was small and fast, and every player on it was a "ball hawk." An assigned man-to-man defense was used and, when playing defensively, the men continually shifted and cut out in front of the offensive man working for interceptions. The offense consisted of both a long shot and short pass pivot attack.

South Kingston, runner-up for state honors, used a man-to-man defense. Tip-off plays from center were relied on for open shots. A tall center and a fine forward were used for shooting, the forward shooting from outside and the center working on rebounds.

Basketball as a whole has shown marked improvement in Rhode Island in the past few years, especially in the northern part of the state. The Newport teams have always ranked with the best in New England.

## South Dakota

By Howard Wood

Washington High School, Sioux Falls

THE South Dakota State Basketball Tournament brought together a number of outstanding teams, making the tournament one of the very best ever staged in the state. Huron, Yankton, Mitchell and Watertown were generally picked as probable winners, with Aberdeen, the 1933 champion, as the dark horse. Sioux Falls, with but one player from the 1933 team, was not rated better than sixth. Vale, from the Black Hills, had a great pre-tour-

nament record but was unknown in the eastern part of the state. Ipswich, like Vale, was an unknown quantity, but with a good record.

Huron, one of the leading teams in the state, had an enviable pre-tournament record. The team had a well-timed style of attack depending a great deal on natural screens. On defense Huron used a combination man-for-man and zone. Watertown, with a big, rugged team, depended on an overhead game and a strict man-for-man defense. In their opening game, Watertown players were too passive until the second half; this condition proved costly. Mitchell, with an excellent record prior to the tournament, used a fast-break and a deliberate screening attack when the defense was set, with guards figuring in the scoring. On defense, Mitchell used a man-for-man, at times taking opposing players all over the floor. Yankton, with three outstanding players, went into a fast-break from the zone defense, with four players breaking fast and hard into the opponents' defense. When a defense was set against them they depended upon a deliberate attack with their center in the hole. On defense they dropped back into a zone, at which they excelled. Aberdeen, with a fast-break and a deliberate attack when the defense was set, depended upon the



Howard Wood, South Dakota

center in the hole, using him a great deal as a blocking post. This team had an assigned man-for-man defense. Vale depended upon sharp shooters and a zone defense. Ipswich, the smallest team in the tournament, was a long shot team, with a strict man-for-man defense. The players appeared to be handicapped by the large floor.

Sioux Falls consistently used a fast-break, going into a deliberate attack when the defense was set. The team worked hard all year on ball handling and passing, and any cleverness shown came from this phase of the play. With every member of the team a scoring threat, guards broke fast and figured all year in the scoring; one guard scored 14, 12 and 11 points in



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the three tournament games. The team played what might be termed a gambling offense, ever willing to take chances. Because of this type of play it became very popular with the fans. Its man-for-man defense frequently played the opponents all over the floor.

The success of the Sioux Falls team was due, I believe, to the following: First, ball handling and passing; second, excellent physical condition; third, wonderful morale; fourth, reserves of ability almost equal to the regulars.

## Utah

By H. Cecil Baker  
Granite High School

THE Utah State High School Basketball Tournament found sixteen of the best teams of the state fighting for the championship.

Granite and Jordan High Schools played for the championship, Nephi and Lehi High Schools fought for third and sixth places, Salina and Ogden High Schools battled for fourth and seventh places, while Provo and Bingham fought for the consolation title.

On the last night, 4,000 people saw the first named schools win their games. Granite won the state championship for the second successive year.

The general type of defense used was man-to-man, although two or three teams used the zone defense. The man-to-man defense varied somewhat. Some teams were prone to let the offense come to their defense; others played their men anywhere on the floor.

Granite used the zone defense, varying the distance from the opponents' basket with the type of offense met. The championship game between Jordan and Granite (the score being 18 to 16) was a great defensive game; Jordan used a strictly man-to-man defense.

It seemed that most teams employed a "freedom" offense, a fast offensive drive for the basket. However, Nephi used a more deliberate type of offense, passing accurately and with precision. The Jordan team was a five-man passing and shooting team. Every man was dangerous, especially from long distance.

Granite's offense was built around a 6 foot 3 inch center who was an exceptionally good shooter. We used a fast-breaking offense with the center and two forwards driving for the basket; if these three men were stopped by only two men, we used quick, short passes for a set-up. If the defense got set, our style of play was more deliberate. We used our center at the free throw line. He generally handled the ball, either to shoot or to pass to the forwards cutting in for the basket, or back to a guard. We used a few set plays from this formation.

This year I kept a chart of each game played and recorded how each player per-

formed offensively and defensively. During the week following a game, the information obtained during the game was used to help correct faults of each player and to improve the work of the team as a whole.

The following is a summary of our shooting for ten league games. This includes twelve men, the number we used in our games.

We made 51 per cent of our short shots, 37 per cent of our medium shots, 22 per cent of our long shots, 34 per cent of our follow-up shots, and 20 per cent of our hope shots. We averaged as high as 44 per cent of all shots in two games, and as low as 23 per cent in one game.

This scheme seemed to stimulate the boys for better playing, and it gave us something to work on during the week.



H. Cecil Baker, Utah

## Washington

By Harold A. Dimick  
Walla Walla High School

THE Washington State Basketball Tournament was up to its usual high standard, having sixteen good teams of nearly equal ability competing. Hoquiam and Wenatchee played in the semifinals in one bracket and Aberdeen and Walla Walla in the other bracket. Hoquiam and Walla Walla won the right to enter the final playoff, Walla Walla winning the championship by a single point, 28 to 27.

Generally speaking, the offense and defense used by Washington high school teams have become quite uniform. Most teams play a fast-break without any set system on offense. With only one exception, the pivot position was not a fundamental part of any tournament team's offense. On the other hand, I do not believe any team played without a man occasionally dropping into the pivot position. The general defense was a man-to-man assigned



type. Hoquiam, the runner-up team, played a territory style of defense. Wenatchee, a semifinal team, played a four-man shifting defense with one man being left in the hole at the offensive end.

There are two interesting exceptions on offensive systems that I should mention. Lewis and Clark High of Spokane played a man in the pivot position most of the time and used signals for a series of planned screen plays. The pivot man formed the screen generally, although some screens were formed by a three-man criss-cross just outside of the free throw circle. The play of this team was quite effective except against a zone defense. Occasionally the screen offense was varied with a fast-break down the floor.

Wenatchee furnished the other interesting variation in offense. This team played the center in the hole at the offensive end while the other players were on defense.

If the center was left alone, one of the other players would try a long direct pass to him for a shot. If he was covered (most teams left a man back with him), another player would try a long lob pass to one side of the basket. Then a return pass to a fast-breaking man for a shot was Wenatchee's most effective play. If their long passes were being intercepted, the Wenatchee players would bring the ball down the floor with short passes.

Basketball at Walla Walla is almost a tradition. Our Washington State Basketball Tournament was started in 1923, and Walla Walla High was the first champion. Walla Walla was able to repeat in 1924, was runner-up in 1930 and winner again in 1934. Last year, 1933, the tournament was not held because of financial reasons, but our team went through a twenty-eight game schedule without a loss. There has been only one year in Washington state tournament history that Walla Walla High School has not been in the tournament and a strong contender. I do not mention this in a boastful manner but only to illustrate the fact that Walla Walla is a basketball town. Our local Y. M. C. A. has a great many teams which play basketball through the winter months, and this is a great aid in training young players and creating general interest.

Our first theory on basketball is that it is a game of skill and confidence. It is a highly skillful act for a player to shoot the ball through a small hoop from any distance out on the floor, with nine other players running in and out around the shooter; or to score from reasonably near the basket while in motion, with a guard attempting to block the shot. There are many other acts of highly developed skill on the basketball floor, but I believe scoring under fire is the most difficult and requires the longest time to learn.

Acts of skill require careful and patient training over a long period of time. Therefore, the fact that we have in this community a widespread enthusiasm for



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basketball is a large factor in our continued success. Many boys play basketball on our various teams, and the starting age is rather young.



*Harold A. Dimick, Washington*

As for our offense, we have nothing flowery or spectacular to offer. We play for the breaks. We try to have five men well schooled in the fundamentals of basketball who have developed through experience a basketball sense and sound passing judgment. These players are encouraged to use their own initiative and all are told to play with their mind on the basket. To score is the primary object of the game; teamwork and keeping track of one's team mates are of secondary interest. I do not mean to convey by that the impression that we do not have teamwork; we make teamwork secondary to scoring in the minds of all five players. We play a fast-break with all five men in the offense and take the first scoring chance that presents itself. Whether we use a long pass or several short passes in getting the ball down the floor is left up to the judgment of the passer after he has sized up the situation. If a forward beats his guard back, he will keep going, and we often use a long pass to him. If his guard is ahead of or even with him, he will stop when the pass is about to be made and come back to meet the ball. The ball is then passed to him with a lead away from his guard (usually toward the side lines).

We always try to break the ball out of the defensive territory and across the middle zone on the side of the floor, and the ball is passed straight down the floor, if possible. Cross passes except in scoring territory are used only in extreme cases when it is evident that the playing situation makes it clearly advisable. In the offensive territory, cross passes are used, but the receiver comes to meet his pass. We do not play the pivot position as a part of our scheme of offense, but occa-



sionally one of our players will drop into this position for a turn shot or return pass to a team mate cutting for the basket. In general, we feel that the pivot play causes too much congestion around the basket.

For our defense we usually use a man-to-man system, although we play a two-one-two territory defense when we feel that it will be more effective against the other team's offense. In the state tournament of this year we played territory defense in two of our games and man-to-man in our other two games. We feel that our man-to-man defense is the stronger of the two, but use territory against the team whose offense depends mainly on screens.

Our man-to-man system is quite orthodox, although I believe we were the only team in the tournament each of whose players picked the man nearest to him when we lost the ball, rather than having one opponent assigned to each player throughout the game. The success of this system of picking the defensive man depends upon getting the individual players to talk and pick quickly. Then, too, it is well to have one guard hurry back to the basket each time the ball is lost to cover any weakness that may develop before the defense gets settled; this guard then picks the man who is not covered. It is well to have a small, fast guard for this duty, one who should also be a good scorer. The other four men should then try not to pick the last man on offense. This offers the first man back on the defense a chance to cover any weakness until the defense is settled; then he may go out to meet the last man coming into the offense. This usually leaves the small, fast guard in position to break first when his team recovers the ball, which may be disconcerting to an assigned man-to-man defense. The first man back on defense should give orders to his team mates and make them declare their defensive choice early.

I will not take time here to discuss our territory defense. Others who use it for their regular team defense may give a much better discussion of it than I could. There is one question, however, that I might answer as my answer is based upon my experience. That question is "Can two defenses with such opposite general principles as man-to-man and territory be used successfully by the same team during a season?" I made an experiment in offense a few years ago. I tried to employ signals, mixing a set-up play now and then in a fast-breaking offense. After some experience, my better judgment told me that my scheme would not work. The two systems did not mix. But we have tried the defensive mixture for the last two years and it has worked very well for us. I believe the secret of success in mixing the two systems is to ground the players thoroughly in man-to-man principles before allowing them to play a territory defense. The experiment in our case has worked out well.

for JUNE, 1934

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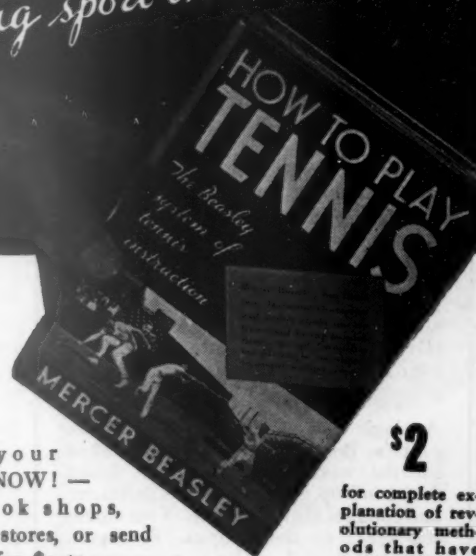
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In conclusion, I might give a few observations on basketball gained from my experience that may be of interest. Many courts are hard to play on because of simple neglect by the coach. The black coating on the rim of the basket is allowed to be worn off so that the basket becomes shiny and loses its direct contrasting color with the white backboard. It is surprising what a difference can be made by ten minutes of work on the rim of the basket with a brush and some black, non-gloss paint. A shiny rim tends to blend with the backboard and does not give a clear target.

Many young players may be taught to shoot either left- or right-handed, according to the side of the basket they are on. The only difficult part is in teaching the player to get the proper footwork for the shot. The player needs the cross-body stretch with either the left- or right-handed shot so as to give him proper balance and follow-through. In a right-handed shot, he strides from his left foot as he receives the ball from a team mates' pass or his own dribble, catching the ball while he is in the air. He lands on his right foot, steps on his left, jumps and shoots. In the left-handed shot, he takes off on the same foot as that on which he is about to receive the ball (the left), but instead of striding he hops from his left foot, receives the ball while in the air, lands on the left, steps on the right foot, jumps and shoots. We have experimented with the left-handed shot considerably this year, and several of our boys are quite proficient with it now. Many baskets are scored with it from scrimmage. One warning I would issue. While learning the footwork for the left-handed shot, the player should keep practicing his right-handed shot or he will become confused. I tell my players to alternate while practicing; take one shot with the left hand, then one with the right. I would not advocate left- and right-handed shots for everybody, but to the boy who has pretty good use of his left hand it may be easily taught and it gives him an offensive advantage.

## West Virginia

By Forrest G. Clark  
Parsons High School

A WEST VIRGINIA team must be thrice victorious to win the state basketball championship under the present system. This provides for thirty-two sectional tournaments, the winners of which meet in eight regionals of four teams each. Then the eight regional winners go to the state contest. This system, while shortening the state tournament, makes it a rather brilliant display of closely matched teams.

The style of basketball the Parsons High School team employed this past year included a shifting zone defense, based upon interception, which provided an excellent set-up for a fast-breaking offense, with three men breaking into offensive ter-

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ritory before the opposing team had time to get set for defense. This resulted in a high scoring team, which totaled 988 points in twenty-six games. The team won twenty-five of its twenty-six games this past season.

A good portion of our time was spent on the all-important fundamentals: footwork, passing, shooting and free throwing.

**FOOTWORK:** Footwork is a very important factor in developing a smooth-running offense. A team that is able to use the pivot play successfully can work the ball through either a man-for-man or set defense on cut-off plays and get many close shots. One of the important factors in developing this style is insistence that the men assume a semicrouched rather than an erect position.

**PASSING:** I emphasize four types of passes: the bounce, hook, baseball catcher's and underhand.

The bounce pass, which is used in working the ball through the front line of defense, is started from a shooting position and may easily be converted into a dribble when the occasion demands it.

The hook pass, useful in a tight place when the defensive man is guarding closely, requires careful judgment. It should be a soft pass, leaving the tips of the fingers



Forrest G. Clark, West Virginia

with very little follow-through, as it is easy to overthrow the receiver. This pass should be directed toward the receiver's chest rather than toward the belt as in the bounce and underhand passes.

The baseball catcher's pass is used only in our fast-break offense. It is valuable only for a long pass. This is started from near the ear. It is somewhat similar to the catcher's throw in baseball. The thrower's hand covers as much of the back of the ball as possible. Little if any English is employed. This might be termed a push pass. It is used by the guards when passing from the back court

to the forwards and the center near our basket.

The pass we use most extensively is the two-hand underhand pass. This is started from the hip, with the player in a crouched position, which enables him to protect the ball from his opponent. It is a soft, quick pass with the minimum amount of spin, which reduces the chance of fumbling.

Accurate passing increases the mechanical rhythm of the game.

**SHOOTING:** The three shots I emphasize are the two-hand set shot, two-hand overhead shot and the one-hand lay-in shot.

The two-hand set shot is taken from a set position. The player should hold his balance well, keep his eyes on the basket and follow through with his hands on the ball as long as possible. The ball should be started from a chest position and given plenty of arch and a minimum of spin.

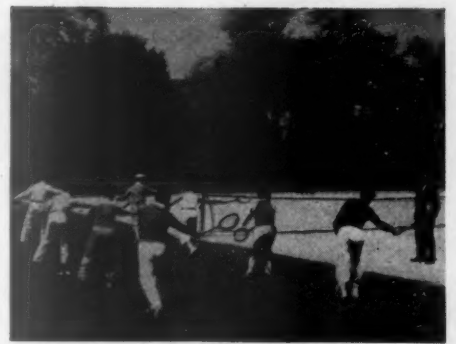
The two-hand overhead shot is used by a man in the pivot position near the free throw line. When this man receives the ball he usually has his back to his own basket. He takes a half body turn and uses a push shot with his arms extended at full length over his head. My men this past year made a number of shots by this method when too closely guarded to use the other types.

The lay-in shot is used while the player is rapidly approaching the basket. The ball leaves his hand at the point nearest the basket. It must be an easy shot, executed by the fingertips to prevent over-shooting.

**FREE THROWING:** The free throw, so often neglected, is the determinate factor in many games. I insist that in making a free throw the man must assume a crouched position on the free throw line with his feet a comfortable distance apart and an equal distance from the line. The ball is started at arms length. The player is in the crouched position. He bends at the knees, but his body is erect from the waist up. His hands are placed well to the back and somewhat beneath the ball. The entire weight of the ball is on the tips of the eight fingers. The player's thumb is used as a guide only. The body swings into upright position as the arms are lifted.

The ball is tossed in an arc and is aimed at an imaginary spot two inches beyond the front rim of the basket. The ball when leaving the fingers takes an overhand English or forward spin, so that if it should touch the outer rim the momentum will pull it in. The fact that 80 per cent of our missed shots fall short rather than hit the backboard has caused us to strive for the development of this forward spin.

We have found it profitable to hold a free throw shooting contest which runs through the season. We keep posted in the gymnasium a chart showing each boy's record.



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These fundamentals were practiced under game conditions during part of two or three periods each week, which developed coolness and deliberateness in the team's play.

In the forty-eight games that my teams have played under this system in the past two years, they have won forty-four and lost but four.

## Wisconsin

By H. L. Jacobson  
Beloit High School

**B**ELOIT High School has now won the state basketball championship three years in succession, the last two years under the present coach. Johnny Watts, sensational colored forward, has been a regular on all three teams, and he has been chosen as an all-state forward during each of the three years. The first six men on the squad graduate this season; so Beloit's supremacy is probably over for some time to come.

Eight teams competed in the state Class A meet this year, namely: Beloit, Wisconsin Rapids, Eau Claire, Kenosha, Madison West, Superior Central, Reedsburg and New London. The offensive formation



H. L. Jacobson, Wisconsin

used by each team was about the same. Every team played a man on the free throw line and used this man as a hub for its offensive maneuvers. Wisconsin Rapids and Eau Claire used a fast-break all the time. Wisconsin Rapids was particularly effective with this phase of the game. This team also used a one-handed push shot from the free throw line with deadly accuracy in its first two games of the tournament.

Beloit's offense was built around the man on the free throw line. Our pivot man was not especially clever, but he was big and rugged and he handled the ball well. Our other four boys were fast and they could all feed the ball in and then cut for the basket. All five men could handle the ball well, and they were all smart when it came to screening for another player. There was really nothing definite about

our offense, although we had a few plays. If our opponents were screened out just right, then the plays would go through. This is the first year I have ever attempted to coach an out-of-bounds play. We had a few out-of-bounds plays and used them with varying degrees of success. We used a fast-break only when the opportunity presented itself.

The straight man-to-man defense was used by all teams in the state tournament. Eau Claire used a strict man-to-man defense in its first game. In its second game, against Beloit, Eau Claire surprised us with a 2-1-2 zone defense and was leading us, 7 to 2, at the end of the first quarter. We never see a zone defense in southern Wisconsin; so we were a little upset when our plays did not succeed. The half ended, 8 to 8. We secured a little lead in the third quarter, and then, in the fourth quarter, Eau Claire had to leave its condensed zone defense and come out to meet us. When our opponents left their condensed zone defense, we went into our regular attack, using the screen play and cutting fast. We finished strong to win, 26 to 17. My reaction to the zone defense is that it is a poor thing for basketball; the team that is ahead will simply hold the ball until the defense comes out of its shell. Little action would take place if all teams used this type of defense.

Beloit's defense is a strict man-to-man assignment, with each man getting definite instructions before the game begins. When our opponents attempt to screen, our players shift men. Considerable time is spent on practicing this exchanging of men. This year I had only one big man, and he was always assigned to take the man in the free throw lane.

Kenosha and Superior Central were represented by large teams. Beloit, Eau Claire and Madison West had small teams, each team having one big man. The height and weight of Beloit's team:

John Watts, forward, 5 feet 9 inches, 155 pounds; Gasper Scalia, forward, 5 feet 9 inches, 146 pounds; Bob Osborn, center, 6 feet 1½ inches, 180 pounds; Gasper Farina, guard, 5 feet 5 inches, 142 pounds; Larry Dibbert, guard, 5 feet 8 inches, 168 pounds.

This past season Beloit won eighteen out of nineteen games, and again we won the undisputed championship of the Wisconsin Big 8 conference.

## Wyoming

By F. B. Foreman  
Laramie High School

**L**ARAMIE HIGH SCHOOL, defending champion, captured two state titles in succession by winning the Wyoming State Basketball Tournament held at Casper, March 14-17. The Plainsmen were undefeated during their schedule of twenty-one games.

Wyoming's tournament is conducted by

the State Athletic Board of Control, consisting of five school superintendents, one from each of the five districts in the state. It is a sixteen team tournament, three teams coming from each of the five districts and one team being invited by the Board of Control from the state at large. Eight places are given in a two defeat elimination system with no consolation. A team may lose its first game and still win fifth place; if the second game is lost then the team may play for fourth or seventh place; if the third game is lost the team may then play for third or sixth place. No team plays over four games and only a few play more than once a day.



F. B. Foreman, Wyoming

The eight placing teams this year were, in order, Laramie, Cheyenne, Rock Springs, Evanston, Cowley, Casper, Douglas and Lovell.

Rock Springs would doubtless have finished in second place had it not been forced to meet Laramie in the semifinals, which game it lost, 28 to 22. The final was played by Laramie and Cheyenne, Laramie winning, 21 to 12.

Among the first four place winners there was represented practically every style of offensive and defensive play. Evanston, fourth place winner, employed a fast-break with spot passing. Against a defense which had beaten it to the set, this team's favorite attack was a medium long shot from the side court, with three men playing the rebound.

Rock Springs, third place winner, used a varied attack. Having a pair of guards who were particularly adept at sizing up the floor, this team would frequently employ a fast-break with diagonal passes which caught its opponents flat-footed. On the other hand Rock Springs was capable of using a cautious short pass attack which was very effective against set zone defenses. The defense was consistently a shifting zone, set quite deep beneath the basket. Most teams were forced to shoot



over the Rock Springs defense and from the corners and could not score often enough to win. Rock Springs was defeated this year only by Laramie, in three games.

Cheyenne, runner-up, employed a screening offense whenever possible; both the single and double post set-up. This team varied its defense between a man-for-man all over the floor and a deeply set zone defense.

Laramie used a slow-breaking attack, never using a long pass or fast-break unless the situation on the floor demanded it. We preferred to attack against a set defense. Against a zone defense, we set up our offense with our center, a 6 foot 2½ inch junior, under the basket, with our forwards playing the side lines even with the foul line and with both guards in front of the defense. This set-up usually caused the middle of the floor around the free throw circle to be open for crisscross cuts by both forwards, as well as diagonal cuts by either guard. Very frequently we found that our center, playing dead under the basket, was left open when his opponent pulled out to stop a seemingly sure shot by a forward from the free throw line. A quick bounce pass to him usually resulted in a basket.

Against a man-for-man defense, we ran screen plays from a single post set-up. Here the center took a position on the free throw line; otherwise the offensive set-up was the same as against a zone. Our most successful screen plays this season were those which put a guard in the open.

Regardless of the type of defense we are playing against, the real secret of our offense is ball control. We depend upon quick, sure-fingered passing, ball handling and rustling. We believe that possession of the ball is the best defense and offense. We refuse to shoot unless we have what we deem a safe shot. Of course we miss more of these "safe" shots than we make. However, we possess the ball two-thirds of the time in most games, which more than makes up for the "safe" shots missed.

The style I have described is the same as that I used last year with the 1933 champions. The 1934 team had only two of that team's first five. This repetition of a system with equal success indicates that ball handling may be taught to boys of average ability.

We have used no other defense than a strict man-to-man in half the floor. Against teams which run screen plays, we shift assignments when necessary. We have found that the old basketball slogan of "play the ball" does not go with a good man-to-man defense. We play the man primarily and do so with a minimum of fouls.

As a whole, basketball conditions in Wyoming during the 1933-34 season were improved over former years in that there was a greater number of championship contenders than ever before. Wyoming is essentially a basketball state, the weather

being unfavorable to football and track. I believe that Wyoming basketball as played by both the university and the high schools ranks with the best in the country.

## An Explanation

EVER since its founding, THE ATHLETIC JOURNAL has exercised every reasonable precaution in its acceptance of advertisements, but recently it carried an advertisement for which it desires to offer an explanation. The advertisement referred to is that of the Continental Teachers Agency, Inc., 1812 Downing Street, Denver, Colorado.

This firm, bonded in the county in which it operated and until April 18, 1934, a member in good standing of the Colorado Business Men's Association, Inc., was apparently reliable when it ordered space in THE ATHLETIC JOURNAL. The Colorado Business Men's Association states that "Previous to the above date our experience with them had been satisfactory and we had no reason to believe they were operating in a manner other than legitimate." Later developments disclosed the inability of the Continental Teachers Agency, Inc., to carry out its promises, and it was denied the use of the mails by the Post Office Department.

The pages of THE ATHLETIC JOURNAL are, of course, henceforth closed to the Continental Teachers Agency, Inc. THE ATHLETIC JOURNAL regrets this incident and renews its pledge to safeguard its readers who, over the fourteen years of its existence, have acquired and retained a justifiable confidence in its advertising pages.

## Athletes Who Were Making Track History a Year Ago

(Continued from page 9)

considerably. His arm action was strong, and this, coupled with his habit of holding his shoulders up and set squarely, enabled him to carry his weight high and take much of the burden off his legs.

Although best known as a distance runner, Ryan performed well at shorter races when the occasion demanded. Running on relay teams, he was timed in 1:58 for the 880 and close to 4:25 for the mile. Only five weeks before his 3000-meter victory in the Intercollegiates, he ran a 3:10 three-quarter mile leg on the Manhattan distance medley team that set a new world's record of 10:14 in the Penn Relays.

In many ways it is unfortunate that Ryan's college career should have paralleled in time that of McCluskey. Except perhaps for McCluskey, he would have



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been several times an I. C. A. A. A. A. champion instead of only a one time winner.

It is a great tribute to his courage, however, that he was able in his last college race to overtake the man whom he trailed to the tape so often. Through four years of competition, during which he placed behind McCluskey perhaps forty times, he remained resolute in his intention to win, frequently saying to his friends and team mates, "Some day I will catch that fellow." He did, of course, and remained as splendid a sportsman in winning as he had always been in losing.

Red-headed and abundantly sprinkled with freckles, Ryan was immensely popular at Manhattan with his fellow athletes and the student body at large. During his senior year, he was captain of cross-country, president of the student council—the highest undergraduate office in the college—and president of his fraternity. In the poll of the senior class he was selected "Most Typical Manhattan Man" by an overwhelming margin. On top of all these extracurricular honors and activities, he was a leading student, finishing in the upper fifth of his class.

## Paul Starr

By William L. Hayward

Track Coach, University of Oregon

**PAUL STARR**, on the N. C. A. A. Honor Roll in the 220-yard dash, entered the University of Oregon in the fall of 1929 from a small high school in Cody, Wyoming. The reason for his attending Oregon was that his family was moving to Portland.

Starr did not have a great deal of experience before entering college, but was a very hard, conscientious and consistent worker. He also went out for football. In fact, he was athletic minded, and anything in the way of athletics he very easily took up.

In his freshman year he ran third in a 10.4 second 100-yard dash and second in a 23 second 220-yard dash. In his sophomore year he ran the 100 in 10.1, the 220 in 22.2 seconds. In his junior year he ran the 100 in 10 seconds and the 220 in 22. In his senior year he ran the 100 three times in 9.8 seconds; and the 220 in 21.2 and 21 and 20.9 seconds in three different meets.

Starr was not a natural runner. He was not the free, loose and relaxed type of sprinter. Due to so many other activities such as boxing, wrestling, swimming and football, he developed a certain amount of tension in his actions which he found was very hard to overcome. He was the bouncing type of sprinter. Although he had a very rapid, seemingly choppy stride, he bounced quite a distance for his style of running.

I may say that Starr was one of the un-

fortunates who had to work his way through school, and a great deal of his work was taken care of during the early morning hours and late at night, breaking up his sleep and rest to a certain extent. He was entirely on his own to make his way through school. He graduated with high honors and is at present employed in a bank in Fresno, California.

## Vaulters and Jumpers of 1933

(Continued from page 7)

uses only one shoe and that on his left foot, the jumping one.

During the indoor season he does most of his training indoors, occasionally going outside to run for the loosening up of his muscles and for bettering his wind. Work on the pulleys and horses in the gymnasium strengthens his leg muscles. It is necessary to use rubber soled shoes to practice on the gymnasium floor, as there is no board floor available on which spikes may be used. For the outdoor season he trains as the usual well trained high jumper should train. He does not practice jumping every day, but two or three times a week. In his practice he never shows any rare ability, but, once under fire, he becomes one of the country's best.

Spencer is somewhat temperamental. On the day of a meet he likes to be let alone. He knows what he is capable of doing and does his best when the time comes. He is not bothered when other athletes ask him for suggestions, but rather enjoys helping them. In practice he is a cut-up and keeps everyone laughing at his antics, but he easily changes when the time for the contest comes.

## Donald Gray

By Henry F. Schulte

Track Coach, University of Nebraska

**DONALD GRAY**, leader of the 1933 National Collegiate Athletic Association Honor Roll broad jumpers, was discovered making a 19 foot 5 inch jump in an intramural meet at the University of Nebraska.

He was an inveterate trainer, inclined to overwork if anything. His run was moderately long. He had fair speed and a good crouch at the board. His spring was clean, well-balanced and fairly high. His finish was usually fairly efficient. As a matter of fact, Gray was not super-great in any department of the jump. The integral factors all found in him a fair efficiency. With another year or two of consistent training and competition, he should have become greater. In other words, he had back of him a short period of experience and growth as a jumper.

Gray's best official jump last year was 24 feet 7¾ inches.



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